Conservation Advisory Board of Grand Island

Minutes

July 27, 2017

Chairperson Diane Evans called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

In attendance: Diane Evans, Alice Gerard, Jeff Green, Ron Rezabek, Ed Standora, Bob Wynne and Ray Billica (Town Board Liaison)

Excused: Sam Akinbami, Sue Tomkins, Paul Yeager

1. Nicole Gerber gave short introduction about upcoming presentation on “Insects and their Conservation” which will be presented on Wed., Aug. 16 at the Nike Base Community Center. Presentation is co-sponsored by the GI Conservation Advisory Board and the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment.

2. Approval of June 22nd minutes. Motion to approve by Ron, seconded by Bob. Unanimous approval.

3. Sam contacted Ed about turtles being struck by cars on Staley by East River Road. Ed displayed replicas of turtle crossing signs used at other locations. The Highway Department can order signs. Contact Dick Crawford.

4. Plastic bag ordinance. Diane communicated with Gary Carrel from County Coalition against plastic bags. Some concerns: possible law suits by businesses, paper bags more expensive. Which level is more appropriate State, County or Town, health issues with soiled reusable bags. Small businesses will actually make money selling bags. Suggested six-month education/adjustment period. Small grant for reusable GI bags “GI Saves Trees” Logo contest. Discussion on sections 83-3 (Operative date) and 83-4 (Penalties). Diane modified wording to satisfy board. Motion to support plastic bag initiative by Bob seconded by Alice. Passed with unanimous vote.

5. Discussion about dates for meetings for the remainder of 2017. Agreed upon dates:
   - Aug. 24
   - Sept. 28
Oct. 26
Nov. 16
Dec. 14

6. Upcoming meetings:

   National Grid meeting concerning rate increases, Tuesday Aug. 1st
   Spicer Creek Habitat Improvement Project, Tuesday Aug. 15th 9:00 am, GI Town Hall
   LRPC meeting Aug. 9th

7. Master Plan

   Wendy Salvati could not attend. She suggested earlier:
   Paragraph needed expressing Grand Island’s Environmental Goals. Need specific
   objectives and action plan. Environmental section should stand alone not be spread out as
   in earlier document.
   Ron suggested that next meeting has a one item agenda – Master Plan.
   Town of Amherst has preserved 60 acres of swampland, not subdivision, not park.

8. Jeff – Highway Dept. concerned about Ash tree removal due to Emerald Ash Borer

9. Motion to adjourn by Alice, seconded by Jeff. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Standora,
Acting Secretary