Conservation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2016

Call to order: 7:03 pm by Chair Diane Evans

Attendance: Sam Akinbami (SA), Ray Billica (RB), Diane Evans (DE), Alice Gerard (AG), Ron Rezabek (RR), Mary Rossi (MR), Ed Standora (ES), Dorothy Westhafer (DW); Excused: Suzanne Tompkins (ST).

1. Approval of Minutes
   Corrections to November minutes via email. DE motion to accept November 19, 2016 minutes; 2nd by ES; all in favor.

2. Announcements/Communications
   Riverkeeper West River Project workshop is February 24, 2016 at the Nike Base. Emily Sadowski invited DE to have a table at the event for educational purposes. Emily offered to print 300 copies of the CAB “Don’t Lose Your Edge” brochure.

   Next Wednesday, February 3, 2016, DE and Emily Sadowski from Riverkeeper will meet with Town Supervisor Nate McMurray to update him on Riverkeeper’s work on the Island.

3. Welcome and Introductions
   New Town Board Members: Supervisor Nate McMurray, Town Board Members: Mike Madigan; Beverley Kinney

   Guests: Nancy Barnes; Dave Reilly; Nicole Gerber

   DE invited CAB members to introduce themselves; all present did so.
   Mike Madigan, Town Board; Beverley Kinney, Town Board; and, Nate McMurray introduced themselves to the CAB and provided a short account of their experience and environmental priorities. The importance of balancing smart development and conservation was emphasized.

   Supervisor McMurray summarized a few of his priorities of interest to the CAB:
   • Stressed the importance of a solid Comprehensive Plan for Grand Island.
   • Very interested in building a public kayak launch.
   • Noted pedestrian access was a priority for his administration.
   • Farmland protection is an important consideration for the Island.
   • Not keen on West River Trail, would like to see Town waterfront access. Has met with NYS Parks to express his concerns over adding pavement where much exists.
• On the proposed anti-trapping ban; agrees that pets are at risk where trapping occurs. Acknowledges that he does not have enough information at the present time to take a position on the matter.
• Nike Base: would make a great camp, site for walleye rearing pond, but NOT a community center as other Nike Bases have been found to be contaminated.

4. Presentation
Proposed Anti-Trapping Law on Town Property
Dave Reilly and Nicole Gerber presented information on trapping adjacent to their home, including potential dangers to people, pets and non-targeted animals.

Requested CAB support a ban on for-profit and recreational trapping on all public lands. Currently have unanimous support for the proposed ban from GI Parks & Recreation Advisory Board; Sierra Club; and Riverside Salem Church.

SA asked whether GI should have a licensing requirement. Mike Madigan noted trappers are currently licensed by NYSDEC.

5. Town Board Report
RB reported:
• Three “Return to Senders” on a mailing of 216 households (“Don’t Lose Your Edge” brochure)
• The CAB now has a budget: $1,000
• Scenic Woods Project has been awarded additional funding.
• Nike Base Master Plan: trails, bocce courts and horseshow pits are proposed; there is $125,000 committed by Cerreto for implementation of the Nike Base Master Plan.

6. Old Business
a. Scenic Woods: SA
   See Town Board report above.

b. WNY Land Conservancy: DE
   Seed money in the amount of $3000 from disbanded Quality Quest, was donated to WNYLC; still considering Assumption Cemetery conservation easement; also in negotiations with Riverside Salem Church for a conservation easement.

c. No-Mow Zone on Linear Bike Path: AG
   DE, AG and ST met with Tom Dworak to educate him and his staff on recognizing no-mow zones along creeks. Specifically spoke on the linear bike path bridge area and offered to provide educational signage on the living shoreline concept for the bike path site and also Town Commons. Tom is amenable to marking the no-mow zone with flags. He also offered to purchase native plants.

d. Meeting with River Oaks Management: RR
DE, RB, RR and Emily Sadowski and Chris Murawski (both from Riverkeeper) met with Khlar Holthouse, manager of River Oaks Golf Course, who is committed to improving Spicer Creek. CAB representatives will walk the creek with Khlar to identify problem areas and make recommendations.

e. Follow up: “Don’t Lose Your Edge” mailing
   See Town Board report above.

f. Water Bill Educational Inserts: MR
   Elaine O’Neill from the GI Water Department is amenable to letting the CAB use the water bill mailing to insert an environmental education message. Two quarters are best for the department: April/May/June and Oct/Nov/Dec. Quantity is 7,300; if we print multiple pieces per page we can minimize costs. April mailing is due to Elaine by April 4, 2016.

7. New Business
   a. Gun Creek Planned Development District
      DE is following new development proposed for this district. RB reported an updated site plan has been submitted to the Planning Board. DE will attend meeting on February 8, 2016.
   b. Action on Agricultural District
      RB reported County Legislature approved it.
   c. Discuss Trapping
      ES made a motion the Town develop a plan to address trapping that models the current hunting regulations; 2nd by AG; all in favor.
   d. New Education Target
      DE will send an email for topic suggestions. Education Island-wide Dispatch next: February 19, 2016; articles due 3 days prior.

8. Adjourn
   9:05 pm