Conservation Advisory Board (CAB)
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2016

Call to order: 7:05 pm by Chair Diane Evans

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

1. Approval of Minutes
   Corrections to January minutes via email. SA motion to accept January 28, 2016 minutes; 2nd by AG; all in favor.

2. Announcements/Communications
   a. Riverkeeper West River Project
      Emily Sadowski, from Riverkeeper’s West River Project held a workshop February 24, 2016 at the Nike Base. DE and DW hosted a table on behalf of the CAB at the event for educational purposes. Riverkeeper printed 300 copies of the “Don’t Lose Your Edge” brochure for the CAB to distribute.

   b. Nike Base Master Plan Committee
      DE reported the committee meets regularly and asked if any members were interested in covering the meetings. Pete Marston, a guest present and member of the Planning Board, noted he attends the meetings regularly. DE reported Assemblyman Ceretto has secured funds to begin implementation of the Master Plan. Pete noted a dilapidated building will be demolished. There is asbestos that must be removed before that can happen. NYS Parks has cut a few miles of trails throughout the base for hiking & cross country skiing as well.

3. Welcome and Introductions
   Guests: Jeff Green, Pete Marston, Steve Birtz; Mike Madigan (8:10 pm-)

   DE introduced Steve Birtz, former CAB member, to speak on a tree survey he conducted in 2012 to identify ash trees to estimate the number and potential impact of an Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The survey targeted the right-of-way along Town-owned roads that amounted to ~6-7 roads and 20 lane miles. Steve identified ash trees with a 4” diameter or greater. Town parks and property were not surveyed.

   DE asked Steve’s recommendation as to whether the tree inventory should be updated. He replied, not necessarily, the inventory was completed, each tree is just slightly larger by now. DE asked whether Town parks should be inventoried. Steve offered to do the Parks.
Soon to be officially appointed CAB member, Jeff Green, a Grand Island High School teacher and Environmental Club mentor to 44 students, agreed his students may be able to assist. Steve said he would be willing to teach him his methodology. Steve suggested contacting Patrick Marren at the NYS Forestry Service, for information regarding the use of aerial imagery to generate a breakdown of species by density.

DE spoke with Andy Hillman at Beaver Island where trained staff have identified infested ash trees and have selected a few for treatment by injection. For Grand Island, Steve recommended planting begin now. Also suggested the Town make a long term commitment by hiring a person or contractor to gradually remove ash trees in areas targeted for re-planting. Need to find out if trees can be planted in right-of-ways.

4. Town Board Report
RB excused. RB conveyed to DE that South Point has been resurrected. It is a development that was presented several years ago. Pete Marston, noted it is being discussed. There are tentative plans with 3-4 neighborhoods around a conservation area.

5. Old Business
   a. Trapping on Town Property
      Public hearing scheduled for March 7, 2016. DE read the CAB position: in short, that the Town develop a plan to address trapping on Town property and that it be modeled after the current hunting regulations.
   b. Spicer Creek
      RR and DE walked the golf course with Tim DePriest, Emily Sadowski and the course manager – all were in agreement to pursue better management practices.
   c. Gun Creek Planned Development District
      DE is following new development proposed for this district. Pete Marston reported the project has been approved by the Planning Board. The green space has been increased specifically between buildings; driveways are longer to accommodate multiple vehicles as needed. DE’s concern is that several properties back up to a wetland; a walkway is proposed for the wetland; and, another backyard backs up to Gun Creek.

      RR questioned whether developers are ever required to determine the future costs that may be incurred by the Town as a result of that development. Pete said it is not presently done.

      SA made a motion that building plans shall be sent to the CAB for review prior to any approval; 2nd by ES; all in favor.
6. **New Business**
   
   **a. Spring Education Program**
   The education committee met on February 17, 2016 to discuss the CAB’s next initiative which will be the Emerald Ash Borer. DE contacted a few potential speakers for that purpose.

   **b. All Terrain Vehicles**
   Pete Marston attended the meeting specifically to discuss ATVs on Grand Island. He is an active member of the Grand Island Snowmobile Club and has been for many years. The Club’s marked trails are maintained and insured and often cross private property (with landowner permission). Although Grand Island has an ordinance against ATVs and use is prohibited on private property, there are continued instances of damage to the trails.

   Pete requested a letter of support from the CAB to the Town Board (cc Grand Island Snowmobile Club).

7. **Adjourn**
   Motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm by DW; 2nd by SA; all in favor.