



## **Town of East Greenbush Conservation Advisory Council**

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### **Conservation Advisory Council monthly meeting**

December 12, 2022 - 7PM  
East Greenbush Town Hall  
Community Room  
Meeting Minutes

#### Attendees

Members: Jennifer Dean, Chair (JD), Jennifer Hixon (JH), Victoria Manieri (VM)

Town of EG: Anna Feltham, Director of Planning (AF)

Recorder: Nick Sergay (NS)

- 7:01 PM - Call to order
- Review and approval of meeting minutes from Oct 24, 2022
  - Unanimously approved. JD moved, VM seconded.
- Business item updates
  - Important items to note from other Board minute/ agendas
    - Zoning Board of Approval:
      - 11/22 meeting granted application for residential roof overhang - no CAC comment needed, says JH.
    - Planning Board/ Planning and Zoning Department:
      - Review of Mountain View minor subdivision
        - Planning board is concerned whether residents will maintain drainage areas.
        - **Action item:** JD will look in files for anything for Mountain View and send it to Anna.
        - This was already reviewed in March. Anna will look for that file and reach out if she can't find it.
      - Talk of updating 1970s wetland law.
        - Idea is to have annual updates to new eCode - Anna
        - Would be good to have electronic version of town laws - JD
      - In the next couple months, an existing asphalt recycling facility at 180/200 American Oil Road ("Newcastle") expects a new determination letter.
      - Department update (Anna):
        - Mike Brown is leaving Planning Department
    - New member recommendation



- Does group approve application of Evan Barr as member of CAC?
  - Yes, unanimous approval via voice vote.
- We will recommend that the Town Board appoint Evan Barr to the CAC. Hopefully they will do so at their meeting 12/21.
- Onboarding... do we need a cheatsheet? asks JD
  - Reach out to Adam Tobey?
- New secretary recommendation: Nick Sergay
  - Unanimous approval.
  - Resume sent on to Town Supervisor. Will be approved by Town Board at same 12/21 meeting, retroactively.
  - Will need a town email, per Anna.
- Annual reporting - it's that time of year again!
  - Submit to town board by Jan 31, 2023
  - JH volunteers to make the report.
  - Did we keep a running list of accomplishments this year?
    - No.
  - Suggestion to make a separate document of accomplishments and update it each month (VM). We can all contribute as we review the minutes.
- **Action item:** follow up with NYSACC membership (JD)
  - Anna authorized it and Mary Hendrick sent payment week of 11/21.
- 2023 calendar - stick with 4th monday of each month?
  - VM will create a tentative schedule.
- Zoning Committee Updates
  - VM and AT - recent meeting
    - Landscaping standards
      - VM sent out an email an hour before the meeting including recommendations and would appreciate feedback
      - Next meeting this Thursday.
        - Unclear if Adam will be there but VM will be there.
      - Will discuss more at the end of this meeting (JD)
    - At previous meeting, they were still looking at what zones will be comprised of. What's commercial, mixed use, etc.
      - Current standard is two stories (minimum). Is that a hindrance, does that make sense, facade vs usable space, etc.
  - Transition from AT to VM
- Development Projects for CAC review
  - None active currently (JD)
- Other Project Discussions
  - Done - Tree species recommendations and planting BMPs packaged up and sent to Anna; passed onto developers.
    - Sent on already (AF)



- Would be great to add species list and BMPs to website
- Maybe there's a better way to organize the website? JD
  - In addition to BMP list, let's build links to other info on other existing sites (VM). VM attended a local Wild Ones chapter and they have great resources. Could be good to have resources for residents who are overwhelmed by the list.
    - Project for 2023
  - Is there flexibility in website design?
    - Anna: box and subheadings are an option
    - Would be possible to create a new page as well. Check out other depts' pages. Talk to Lisa and Megan Hart (in-house IT person)
- Catch Basin marking project for Hampton Manor - JH
  - Dan liked the pins but didn't know where to get them. Let's maybe just order marker and adhesives that DAS recommended.
  - Do we want starter kit with wire brush and doorknob hangers, or just get markers and adhesive alone? Group decides on markers and adhesive
  - DPW could help apply them. Would have to pay Megan Myers of [Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District](#) and their folks to help? Could also organize volunteers. Let's go ahead and order 100 For Hampton Manor. We might have a few extra.
  - Rich Williams said anything on lakeside of spillway drains to lake, other side drains to spillway, so this is just for ones that drain to the lake.
  - Supplies for 100 markings will be \$213
  - Make a motion to approve expenditure?
    - JH will put in a purchase order. We still have 2022 funds we can use for this.
    - Tax free certificate submitted with purchase order; talk to Mary Hendrix.
    - JH will do that this weekend.
    - Let's not expand scope until we see how this project goes, but we will have use for any extras eventually.
    - Unanimous approval for JH to submit that purchase order.
- Grant application for Natural Resources Inventory online mapping project
  - CDTC Community Planning Technical Assistance Program; due soon
  - Would be for project in Q1 of 2023
  - Put the GIS files from HREP of our NRI into ArcGIS Pro - using town account, and allow access for CAC account
  - Using CAC time as match
  - JD wants to know: after launch, we would take on learning to use it and teaching others how to use the new resource. That would be our contribution to the match requirement. Sound good?



- Sounds good - JH and VM
  - If we do get the funding, other data layers might naturally be added to this - JD.
    - Possibility of including MS4 information
  - Anna will reach out tomorrow and submit hopefully by the end of next week.
- Old Troy Bridge Rd - public comment about lack of aquatic life; CAC investigated.
  - From DEC DFW Coldwater Unit Leader (FH) query results: electrofishing samples were taken on Mill Creek in July 1991 and July 2011 (at site near Salsa Latina; closest available data to Old Troy Road). No meaningful difference in trout catch per unit effort. In comparing the two samples the following was noted:
    - Insect forage score was Medium in '91 and Low in '11
    - Minnow score was High in '91 and Medium in '11
    - While air temperature was similar between the two samples, water temperature was quite a bit higher in '11. Sixty-six is about ideal summer temperature for a trout stream but 75 is pushing the lethal limit.
    - Conductivity was quite a bit greater in '11 than in '91 indicating increased dissolved mineral content in the water.
  - Anna shared with Jack and the Town Board for the follow up public listening session at their Town Board meeting on 11/16 at 6:30PM on the Old Troy Rd Bridge.
  - VM will reach out for sample info for other data source
- Any other items? No.
- Public Comment from David Terpening:
  - David Terpening: VM mentioned commercial zoning discussed last meeting. In my experience with the town: emphasis is on having a pleasant front facing building structure. But they also need to consider the back of the properties. All up and down Columbia Turnpike, it's like the wild west. Lots of residential properties experience fallout from this wild west. I would like this committee to recommend to town zoning committee that they consider the back of the properties. There should be more care taken to protect residences from commercial noise / disturbance.
  - David (continuing): This leads into my next statement: the planning board this week will make the E.G. Town Board the lead agency for the Martin Electric proposal. Martin Electric is asking for approval of a canopy behind the loading dock + increase in existing coal storage garage, by 60%. Plus a shipping container behind the building, plus permanent construction dumpsters. This is an example of how things affect neighborhood properties. Zoning violations have been going on since 2019 in the fall.
    - Would it help to have a buffer of trees required? (JH)



- Well there already is one required. There were trees on buffer to my property. They increased impervious space and the trees went away. They should increase the buffer.
  - We can take a look at those upcoming zoning standards for behind commercial buildings (JD)
- These standards should be enforced - David.
- END OF PUBLIC COMMENT
- NEXT MEETING: **Monday, 1/30** (fifth Monday of January, to allow Evan to attend).
- [Hampton Manor Lake Assessment writing discussion]
- Wrap-up/Review action items
- MEETING ADJOURNED, 9:01 pm (JD moves, VM seconds)