



Town of East Greenbush Conservation Advisory Council

TOWN HALL, 225 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE, RENSSELAER, NY 12144 (518)477-2005 FAX (518)477-2386

Conservation Advisory Council monthly meeting

October 23, 2023 - 7PM
East Greenbush Town Hall
Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Members: Jennifer Dean, Chair (JD), Victoria Manieri (VM), Jennifer Hixon (BW), Brad Wenskoski

Absent: Fred Henson & Evan Barr

Secretary: Alison Lovely (AL)

Meeting was recorded to [Town Hall Streams](#)

- Call to order - 7:00 PM
- Meeting minutes for September 18, 2023 – Motion to approve by JD, Second by VM. Motion carried.
- Business item updates (Minutes & Agendas)
 - JH stated she puts some notes in but mostly they were for meetings that were canceled.
 - JD stated she looked at the Town Board Agenda and saw that for Seaboard Solar, the Town Board requested being Lead Agency for SEQR.
 - Updates from the PZD:
 - Josh Giller (JG) stated that we have a new Planner Dan Rodriguez, who started today. Dan gave a brief overview of his background.
 - JG had some conversations with the Climate Smart Communities, there is an account but hasn't been updated since 2013, so the contact information has been updated, so now we have access.
 - JG stated that the Town Board initiated SEQR for Seaboard Solar. The CAC recommendations were forwarded to the Town Board and the Planning Board.
 - JD stated if adjusted plans come up, please forward them to the CAC for review again.
 - JD looked in the members' terms. EG & BW terms expire on 12/21/25, VM & JD terms expire on 12/31/23, FH & JH terms expire on 12/31/24. JH stated



that she wants to be done with her term this December. VM & JD want to continue when their terms expire.

- Development Projects for CAC review
 - JD wanted to make note that the comments regarding Seaboard Solar were sent to JG on 9/26/23.
 - JG stated that there is nothing large on the radar but will keep everyone updated.
 - PZD
 - Nothing
 - TB
 - Nothing
- Other Project Discussions
 - JD stated that things are starting to move with the Climate Smart Communities.
 - BW asked Dan Rodriguez if he's heard of the Communities Rating System. Dan stated he has not. BW stated that it would have the potential to offer residents a reduction in premiums on their flood insurance. BW stated they would have to speak to the floodplain administrator. JD asked if this was similar to the climate smart community's programs. BW stated there is some overlap with the programs. JH stated that as there are more extreme weather events happening, maybe more people will be interested.
 - JD asked VM if she's heard anything from Dan Fiacco regarding Hampton Manor. VM stated that she hasn't and the window for planting is closing. VM will look into the state nursery in regards to seedlings for the spring.
 - JD is kicking around having a potential public outreach event. Would like to discuss Hampton Manor study but focus on other waterways. JH will check with the EG Library regarding available dates for mid to late January with like a 20–30-minute presentation max.
 - JD stated that the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance and the Rensselaer Land Trust are doing a community survey on the visions for conservation in the county which closes on November 7, 2023. The two land trusts will be merging into one.
 - VM stated that the Berkshire Botanical Gardens is having their annual symposium on November 12, 2023.

Public Comment

- Dave Terpening asked how far before meetings are the agenda's created. JD stated that if there is a big project, she gets them up there, unlike today, she leaves spots on the agenda to discuss things that come up.



- Dave Terpening stated he feels that the Seaboard Solar project is a done deal, he believes the solar law is to not take up big spaces. He thinks that they need to think this project through and they need to be careful how they give their recommendation. He feels as if it's a waste of land.
- Wrap-up/Review action items
 - JD asked if there was anything else. No one had anything.
 - The next regular CAC meeting will be held November 27, 2023

Motion to close meeting by BW, seconded by VM. Motion carried 4-0.