

**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

November 22, 2021 - 7PM

East Greenbush Town Hall

Community Room

Attendees:

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

Not Present: Fred Hensen, Adam Tobey

Also Present: Adam Yagelski (AY)

Reports of Board agendas/minutes

- Town Board (TB)
 - Special meeting- Nov 4: consolidating town and sewer districts
 - Pre-Board meeting- Nov 10: Resolution Approving the Adoption of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2022
 - Colleen Lallier now in Meghan Hart's former position
 - Resolution to Accept the Offer of Certain Required Improvements Constructed in Connection with the Witbeck Cluster Subdivision Project at Wyatt's Circle (ponding, ROWs, etc)
 - Resolution in Support of Seeking Federal Grant Funding Support to Implement Gilligan Road Complete Streets Enhancements and Authorizing the Use of and Encumbering of GEIS Traffic Funds
 - June 2021- Public comment on Gilligan Road Complete Streets Enhancements Feasibility Study
 - Town Board hereby supports an application to be made to CDTC for federal grant funding as part of the 2022 to 2027 TIP for the Gilligan Road Complete Streets Enhancements project
 - \$2.1M with 20% local match
 - Public hearing: on December 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., or by remote means
 - Town Board will hold a Special Meeting on December 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Red Barn in the Town Park, 100 Town Park Road, East Greenbush 12061 to discuss the Dunn Landfill and attend to any other business that may be brought to the Town's attention.
 - Resolution to Re-Schedule a Public Hearing on a Proposed Local Law Imposing a Moratorium on Applications for Permits, Site Plans or Other Land Use Approvals for Large-Scale Solar Energy
 - Town Hall at 225 Columbia Turnpike on December 15, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. or by remote means
- Town Board Meeting- Nov 17: most of items from pre-board meeting, plus annual budget for FY22

- Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)
 - cancelled
 - Planning Board (PB)
 - Meeting Nov 10
 - 26 Mountain View Ave
 - Early stages
 - Sketch Plat Presentation and initiated SEQR presentation
 - May have federally regulated wetlands
 - Meeting Nov 24
 - Cancelled
- Project Review Team (PRT)
 - Did not meet

Action Items

- Update typos as pointed out by community member David Terpening
- Change e-mail on Agenda
- CAC e-mail - Adam T to use to sign up for ESRI & other Accounts
- - do we trade off monitoring e-mail's monthly?
- Check NRI e-mail, is it still active?
- Immanuel Church assignment
 - review checklist & compare note
- Checklist Update
 - VM to add map #'s to corresponding questions

Public Comment

Dave Terpening

- recommends watching "Planet of the Humans"
- concerned about the solar moratorium and the negative impacts large solar farms may have on the existing green space in town.
- not clear how they will keep grass maintained at Best Rd site, will it be cut or herbicides used?
- should arrays be bonded
- Unsure of long term environmental impacts of large scale solar, is it really eco friendly?
- Town Website - time stamp when posted, get minutes posted more frequentl
- can't get a sense of how the board is leaning
- worries about profiting off to detriment of resources and is concerned that developers will skirt the recommendations of the CAC.
- JD in response to public comment: "The role of CAC is advisory; the solar report goes into more detail on recommendations and land development. There will always be discussions of developing but we need to move in a smart direction."

Business Items

- October minutes were approved at 7:38pm
- Website
 - Post voting items such as minutes, compliance, and more information.
 - Updates to website will now be collaborating with Colleen
- E-mail
 - AT will be using CAC e-mail to sign up for ESRI & other accounts
 - Add e-mail information to CAC webpage
 - Discussion on who is monitoring the e-mail, do we trade off monthly duties? TBD
 - E-mail address needs to be changed on agenda heading
- Update Solar Assessment
 - We will add a versioning page to track and technical changes
 - Any changes will be publicly noted with “updated sources”
- Zoning Update
 - No kick-off meeting has been scheduled for the zoning update committee yet but will include CAC team.
- Secretary
 - Secretary position for CAC has been posted but no interest has been received so far.
 - AY recommends preparing a job description to post to website.
- December meeting is cancelled, reconvene January 24th, 2022.
- Annual Report
 - Due January 31st
 - JH volunteered to draft report
- Assignments

	Minutes	Recorder	PRT	ZBA	PB	TB
JAN	Victoria H	Jennifer H	Jennifer H	Fred H	Jennifer D	Adam T

Projects for Review

- Carver Court final assessment has been sent
- Best Road Solar
 - 7:52pm JD made motion to approve draft recommendations that were sent to the planning board, accepted
- Immanuel Church will be reviewed by CAC members using the updated checklist process before the next meeting

Discussion Items

- Mountainview
 - AY suggested that a drive by to look for wetlands would be beneficial
 - Ask developer for a site visit
- Checklist Changes
 - JD proposed new text box for missing concerns & comments w/ NRI
 - JD proposed adding geology & steep slopes

- AY will send town code with slope information
- JD proposed adding sensitive historic area and landmarks to scenic resources category of checklist
- Discussion of how to include rock outcroppings, unique features, stream bottoms to checklist
- AY noted the importance of the relationship between soils and stormwater management
- Motion template
 - JD asked for ideas on wordsmithing resolution template for future CAC business
 - AY explained motion vs. resolution “resolution details the record while motion is the action to move.”
- 2022 Budget & Project ideas
 - Software needs
 - Event in the spring at BRB
 - Vegetation Management Resources
 - No concrete timeline made yet
 - Continue to research, can add resources to CAC drive

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:30