

The Town of Fenton Conservation Advisory Committee held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 6th, 2018, at 6:00 PM, at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

Presiding – Michael Grasso, Acting Chair

Members Present – Karen Goodman, Pat Podrazil, David Sterling

Member Absent – Pam Klesse

Others Present – Deputy Town Supervisor Gary Holcomb; Residents Linda Baker, Clark Gardner and Al Seymour

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents Clark Gardner and his wife Linda Baker have been very concerned about the Compressor Station project and they have been trying to attend any meeting where this topic may come up. Linda said the river, the river bank and the wetlands would be affected by the Compressor Station should the project move forward. Clark said there is standing water at the site where there has been excavation. Mr. Grasso said he is aware a Wetlands Permit had been filed. Mr. Holcomb said the Zoning Board of Appeals has determined the Compressor Station was not an approved use for the current zoning so at this time the project is on hold and there has been no communication with NG Advantage since the February 6th ZBA meeting. Mr. Holcomb further stated NG Advantage has been in communication with the DEC in regard to the wetlands. Mrs. Podrazil stated the CAC has never been asked to comment on the project so they have never been involved. Mrs. Podrazil further stated the CAC has pressed very hard to be involved in projects of this nature and some of the more recent projects that have come along the Committee has been asked to comment. Linda said she and Clark are concerned about the environment on a larger scale than NG Advantage. Members of the Committee said they welcome Public participation at their meetings.

Public Participation closed at 7:10 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 2017 Minutes – Mrs. Podrazil made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Goodman. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 4 Goodman, Grasso, Podrazil, Sterling

Nays 0

Absent 1 Klesse

OLD BUSINESS

Reports – Town Board/Zoning Board – Mrs. Podrazil said she attended the December 12th, 2017 ZBA meeting regarding the Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces (OWBF). A brochure and information was provided by the Residents for what they had purchased and what they bought was not originally designed to be an OWBF. This is why they did not feel they needed to go

through the motions to apply for an OWBF permit. However, they are using it in the same method as an OWBF would be used. The decision was tabled at that ZBA meeting because the Committee wanted to do more research. There was a unanimous vote at the February 6th ZBA meeting to allow its use. Mr. Holcomb said some modifications will need to be made for the use of OWBF in the future. Mr. Grasso also made reference to an outdoor OWBF on NYS Route 369, which is now being looked into by Building Inspector Matt Banks.

Park and Ride Lot River Access – There is no update on this.

EMC – Ms. Goodman said she was not at the last EMC (Environmental Management Council) meeting, but there is a meeting this Thursday that she will be attending. The Climate Change Awareness event in June is progressing, and this Thursday their emphasis is on Open Space Management in Broome County.

Ideas for Earth Day 2018 – Ms. Goodman said she inquired as to how the events for Earth Day are organized. Chris Berger and an individual at SUNY Broome, as well as the Binghamton Regional Open Space Commission, are organizing the event. On Sunday, April 22nd there are displays of different Vendors. Forms are available to apply to be one of those Vendors. After a lengthy discussion amongst Committee Members it was suggested Mr. Sterling lead a hike on Sunday, April 22nd at 1:00 PM, rain or shine, called "Walk the Old Chenango Canal Towpath, led by Biologist David Sterling". Ms. Goodman agreed to be Mr. Sterling's backup. It will be organized at the Beach Parking Lot (at the State Park Swim Area) and will end in Chenango Forks at the Lock. The walk will be broken up into two parts: the shorter walk will break at about 1.5 miles (one way) and those who wish to continue will walk to the Lock, which is three miles one way. Discussion regarding the advertising of the event included the Town Newsletter, the Fenton Historical Advisory Committee Facebook page, the weekly Binghamton Press Entertainment Guide *go!binghamton*, the Town of Fenton Website, local businesses and the Civic sign on the corner of NYS Route 369 and Park Street. There was also discussion that the State Park should be notified of the event and that EMTs be present. It was also discussed that it is a walking tour (no bikes), appropriate footwear should be worn and participants should prepare for ticks.

Mrs. Podrazil made a motion that the CAC host an Earth Day event on Sunday, April 22nd at Chenango Valley State Park, seconded by Mr. Sterling. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 4 Goodman, Grasso, Podrazil, Sterling
Nays 0
Absent 1 Klesse

NEW BUSINESS

Mowing of Towpath – Mr. Sterling asked who was in charge of mowing the Towpath. Mr. Holcomb said there is a season road the Town maintains and the mowing is under the direction of Highway Supervisor Randy Ritter. Mr. Sterling said the timing in which it is mowed can affect

the whole Summer's growth. Mr. Holcomb suggested a time be arranged to talk about this with Randy or a meeting can be scheduled on site at the Lock.

Communications – Mrs. Podrazil did some research on timber harvesting and provided some handouts to the Committee which included excerpts from an article published by the New York State Department of Forestry on Best Practices and two Timber NOI (Notice of Intent) forms to be used as samples in drafting a local NOI form which would be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to operations beginning. The applicant would be provided with a "Best Practices for Logging Operation" brochure at the time of the NOI being filed. The hope is any issues would come out at the time of the NOI being filed. The documents will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Holcomb and Discussion of Upcoming Projects – Mr. Holcomb said he and Town Supervisor Mr. Hamlin would like to have the CAC give feedback on the following:

- Climate Smart Community (CSC) – This was an initiative in 2016 which never came to fruition due to the Town Board's objection to the political connotation of the CSC Pledge required to move forward. Mr. Holcomb explained that the Town Board is in favor of green communities, reducing the use of fossil fuels and renewable energy sources. If the CAC could look into modifying the Resolution along those general guidelines to remove the political undertone, the Town Board would be in favor of moving forward with this kind of program.
- Possible Solar Farm Location – Mr. Holcomb asked the CAC to look into the feasibility of using the superfund site of the old Tri-Cities Barrel Factory on NYS Route 7B as a Solar Farm location.

Mr. Grasso asked Mr. Holcomb what the status was on the DLA Project. Mr. Holcomb said there is a local Committee that is working on coming up with a suggestion for approved uses in that area. It was originally zoned Limited Industrial or Industrial, but it was changed to Residential B approximately 15 years ago so that its uses could be controlled. Several projects over the years have been turned down. Carrier Services Group (CSG) recently came along and the initial reaction was the same, but after discussing the project further it was deemed suitable. The zoning became an issue because the Town did not want to rezone the entire area in an effort to control the uses of the remainder of the property not owned by CSG. One option at this point is to come up with a new zone that would fit in with the Community that would have limited traffic, no chemicals, etc., and the local Committee is working on these suggestions. In the meantime, an idea was brought forth by another Resident to make it a Development Zone, which means there would be no automatic zoning. A proposal would need to be brought to the Town Board for review and the proper Public Hearings would be put into place, similar to a Special Use Permit.

NEXT MEETING

The next CAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018, at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Goodman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM, seconded by Mrs. Podrazil. **Motion carried.**

Sheryl L. Fay, Deputy Town Clerk