

TOWN OF MARILLA
CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 1, 2010

I. Call to Order

Roger Gustavel called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Members Present: Roger Gustavel, Pat Blarr, Debbie Beats, Marian Prezyna, Jim Heinrich
Town Board Liaison: Don Darrow
Members Absent: Jim Hopper, Debbie Lerner

II. Approval of Minutes

Roger asked if all members had the chance to review minutes from March. A copy was available for all to review. Jim Heinrich moved and Deb Beats seconded to accept the March minutes as written.

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 MOTION: Carried

Next Meeting: Thursday May 6th

III. Reports from Members

- Planning Board Training Session – Melissa Stark, Planning Board Clerk, invited CAB to a Planning Board Training Session on the topic of the town’s Comprehensive Plan. Scheduled for Thursday, 4/29, 7-9 PM in the Town Hall. Training session will be conducted by Jason Paananen from Nussbaumer & Clarke, the Town Engineers. Roger asked if this is mandatory. Pat informed that Melissa did not state this was so for CAB. Don informed he didn’t believe so, as well.
- Managing Organic Residuals Program Work Team (managing organic waste) – CAB invited to attend this organization’s Annual Meeting. April 6 at Cornell Coop. Ext. of Tompkins County, Ithaca.
Ag and Farmland Protection Board meeting was held 3/25. Would have been very helpful to us in formulating a town Farmland Protection Plan. Very sorry we missed this. This invitation was put in CAB’s mailbox. Unfortunately Roger was unable to get to the mailbox in time to plan on attending. Roger expressed concern that CAB is missing meetings held by outside groups on topics that are relevant to CAB. CAB is not receiving such meeting information on a timely basis because the hardcopy invitations are left in the CAB mailbox. Roger will ask Town Clerk if it is possible to have such invitations communicated to him via email.
- Resolution by Town Board – Roger asked Don about this issue. Don informed that the Town Board made a resolution and composed and sent a letter to the state governor regarding town’s support of farmland protection. Town does not want to see farmland protection cut out of state budget. Town reiterated importance of farmlands. Regarding this same topic, Deb Lerner asked Roger to bring paperwork on her behalf from the “No Farms, No Food” organization. Deb L attended a lobby day in Albany by this organization. This organization lobbied for and sent a similar communication to the state governor regarding importance of farmland protection.
- Marilla Comprehensive Plan – Roger informed that Planning Board Chairman Jay Walkowiak will contact CAB to work together. Town Clerk informed Pat B that our two new members, Marian and Deb L, can get Town Code Books. CAB suggests that Town Clerk contact past CAB members for their Code Books. Past members would be Dave Coder, Joe Lankes and Bud Pearce. Town Clerk informed Pat B that the current Comprehensive Plan books for CAB’s five members may not be available because there may not be a large enough supply. Currently, only

Jim Heinrich and Roger have a Comprehensive Book. CAB suggests that Town Clerk contact same past members for their Comprehensive Books.

- Farmland Protection Plan - Roger planning on contacting and inviting Jason Engel, Town Ag & Markets Consultant, and Pat Szerpa from the WNY Land Conservancy and possibly John Whitney from the Fed Dept of Agriculture regarding this task. Roger would also like to invite the Town Board and all other Boards of the town. Roger would also like to invite residents whose property is currently in the PACE program to one of our meetings. Their input would be valuable to us in creating this plan. Deb Beats volunteered to talk to neighbors of hers whose property is in PACE. Roger has put this Farmland Protection Plan as CAB's number 1 priority. Would like to have input from these people for next meeting in May.

IV. Unfinished Business

- Town Park Kiosk – Jim Heinrich updated CAB regarding this Eagle Scout project that Tim Mather is working on. Tim has the materials and assembly will begin shortly. Marian P expressed concerns regarding Phase I (Activity Path – possibly paved) of the Town Park Master Plan that CAB has worked on since 2007. Marian's concerns include increased vandalism, liability, lights, maintenance, upkeep of blacktop, skateboarders and bicyclists versus walkers on Activity Path and possible lawsuits if paved Activity Path is included and completed. 2007 members informed Marian that these concerns were discussed in past meetings. Pat said that other town parks probably face same concerns but that doesn't stop towns from including such amenities. Marian suggested grants can be procured for signage along trail and mulch for trail(s). This is, however, no longer an issue. CAB was informed by Town Board last fall that this phase of the park has been put on hold indefinitely.
- Town Recycling – Roger informed that Highway Supervisor has a new recycling company that the town will utilize. The new company's guidelines will be included in the next town newsletter. Because of this, CAB has decided NOT to pursue a separate recycling newsletter at this time. New company is called Buffalo Recycling. Check out website. Has chart with recycling details. It practices single stream recycling. This process requires residents to place all recycling material in one container. This makes recycling much simpler and easier for residents because separation of recycled material is not required. Highway Supervisor might be able to set up a tour if CAB is interested. Deb L asked Roger to inform CAB about information she had gathered after last month's meeting. Deb L created a draft page for a possible future recycling newsletter. Deb L printed information from websites regarding recycling bins and recycling containers for town events where large groups of people assemble. CAB decided that a better opportunity for a separate recycling newsletter might be if/when the town decides to purchase recycling bins for residents use. Such an informational newsletter to go with the introduction of these bins might be helpful.
- Urbanik's Nonconforming Building Lot on Clinton – Don informed that Zoning Board trying to re-zone this area to correct zoning.

V. Adjournment

Roger requested a motion to adjourn. Jim Heinrich moved and Deb B seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 MOTION: Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Blarr
CAB Clerk