

**TOWN OF MARILLA
CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 15, 2008

1. Call to Order

Roger Gustavel called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm

Members Present: Roger Gustavel, Joe Lankes, Dave Coder, Pat Blarr

Fred Specht, Town Council Rep

Jason Engel, Consultant

New Member: Jay Walkowiak-replacement for Warren Cullen

Roger formally thanked Warren Cullen for his years of service to the CAB.

Bud Pearce joined meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Dave moved and Joe seconded the approval of minutes from the CAB meeting held on December 4, 2007.

AYES: 6 NAYES: 0 MOTION: Carried

George Gertz, Newly elected Town Supervisor joined meeting.

George addressed CAB as follows:

- As newly elected Town Supervisor, George gave his and the Town Board's full support of CAB and asked for our 2008 Goals and Objectives report. George said the Town Board will review at next meeting.
- George will forward to CAB a copy of the letter the town received from the state regarding the Stonewall Acres/ Wanda Airey property application and its denial. In summary, the state informed the town that the competition for such grants statewide is very high.
- George asked CAB if we needed anything from him or the Town Board. Roger informed George that communication is an area that CAB would like to see improvement on. George said CAB is welcome to join the Town Board work sessions when necessary to facilitate communication.
- George suggested that CAB discuss the possibility of meeting on a different night. The first Tuesday of the month conflicts with Fred's Town Board work sessions. In addition, court is held on Tuesday nights and the excess cars crowding the parking lot and noise level from the building being occupied to near capacity makes this a difficult night to meet.

George excused himself from the meeting.

Bud Pearce excused himself from the meeting.

3. Reports from Officers and Members

CAB received the following updates from Roger and Jason:

- Jason informed CAB that a closing ceremony to be held here in Marilla is being organized to celebrate the fastest PACE/PDR closing in the state which was the Foss property here in Marilla. The Commissioner of Ag & Mrkts, the American Farmland Trust, and many local and state politicians/legislators/assemblymen are invited and most likely will participate. This ceremony is an excellent opportunity for positive public relations for the PACE/PDR program. Roger suggested that Ag Day would be an excellent opportunity for this closing ceremony, as well.
- Jason informed CAB that CAB needs to communicate to our residents that this most recent PACE/PDR property closing only took 13 months. The state Ag & Mrkts department is working on making every closing date just 26 months, maximum, from first date of filing an application.
- Jason informed CAB that PDR is the acronym for Purchase of Development Rights. The town purchases development rights on farmland so that it can never be developed.
- Roger would like CAB to discuss changing the name of PACE. The rest of the state uses the PDR acronym. CAB needs to decide before the two portfolios are completed because the portfolios will use the new name. Dave suggested that CAB use PACE/PDR.
- In regards to the portfolios, CAB is waiting for the map from John Whitney, Cornell Ext. Dave said he could put together a map if he had the information. Jason said he will give Dave the information. When the map is completed, CAB can take photos of the properties.
- In regards to the “Right to Farm” signs Pat offered to call the Town Highway Supervisor to get the number of “Welcome to Marilla” signs that are presently posted. CAB can base the number of “Right to Farm” signs needed to be made on this number.

5. New Business

- Fred informed CAB that the DEC is proposing a total ban on open burning throughout the state. He asked CAB for their opinion to this proposal and to possibly send our thoughts to the DEC. He gave Pat a copy of the article describing in more detail this proposition. CAB will look into this issue further and possibly compose a letter.

6. Adjournment

Roger asked for a motion to adjourn: Joe Lankes moved and Dave Coder seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 MOTION: Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Blarr
CAB Clerk