

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 18, 2014
Delancey Hall

Members Present: Lori Tripoli, Co-Chair
 Pam Pooley, Co-Chair
 Nancy Welo
 Alan Towers

Also Present: Janice Will, Secretary

Lori Tripoli opened the meeting.

The minutes of the January 23 meeting were unanimously approved.

Comments-January meeting

Alan Towers said he had some questions/thoughts about the January meeting, which he did not attend. He suggested that, before they ask Supervisor Warren Lucas to attend a meeting to hear his thoughts about clearing invasive plant species, the CAC should produce a draft of something to show him. Mr. Towers suggested that the home garden in one of the Peach Lake communities observed by Pam Pooley might be a good example of how/what to re-plant after removal of invasive species from a wetlands area.

Ms. Pooley said she will find out who the property-owner is/who planted the garden.
(Daniel Seymour/33 Lake Street)

Continuing with his comments about the January meeting, Mr. Towers said having an article in the Town newsletter is a good idea, but he thinks the Town-wide e-mails from Supervisor Lucas are read by many more people. Mr. Towers said perhaps the CAC could add a link of some kind to the Supervisor's notes if they have something specific to share with people. He added that the Daily North Salem is also very willing to take articles.

Regarding the Homeland Towers application, Mr. Towers said that even though there is no wetlands issue on the proposed Bloomer Road site, visual impact should still be considered.

Nancy Welo remarked that it is a hard case to make, because people want cell phone service.

Mr. Towers said the Planning Board looked at sightlines on a site inspection, and he wondered if the applicant intends to install a "fake" tree.

Regarding the January discussion of 2014 goals, Mr. Towers said he is concerned about noise pollution. He stated that there was a high response level to a survey conducted by

the Comprehensive Plan Committee, but he does not think the Town is in a particular hurry to address the issue.

Ms. Welo said there are decibel-level readers.

Mr. Towers said the police don't want to use them. He commented that North Salem is the only town in the area with no noise-control ordinance.

Ms. Welo suggested looking at the ordinances of other towns, and Mr. Towers said he has done this.

Mr. Towers stated that the Building Inspector advocates a noise-control ordinance, and asked the others if they would like to invite the Building Inspector to a CAC meeting to discuss his views on the subject.

Ms. Welo said she thinks the State has some kind of law.

Mr. Towers commented that if a neighbor has a very loud party that runs late into the night, the police cannot really stop it.

Ms. Welo said they can arrest people for disturbing the peace.

Mr. Towers said he will review the noise ordinances of other towns. He stated that the City of Rye prohibits the use of leaf-blowers between May and October. Mr. Towers conceded that some things have to be let go, i.e. fireworks on July 4. He said he also doesn't mind if a property-owner works on a Sunday, but he does not want contractors to be permitted to work 7 days a week. Mr. Towers stated that he will speak to Bruce Thompson about attending the March CAC meeting.

Ms. Tripoli mentioned inviting Supervisor Lucas, but Mr. Towers thought they should wait.

Ms. Pooley asked Mr. Towers to get some sample noise ordinances together, and Mr. Towers said he will do so.

Ms. Tripoli wondered why North Salem has no ordinance.

Mr. Towers said it was suggested in the Comprehensive Plan, but it is not being implemented.

Teatown/CAC gathering

Ms. Pooley said 1 member of the CAC may attend this meeting at the end of February.

Ms. Tripoli offered to go, saying it will be a good opportunity to hear what other CAC's are doing.

Next Planning Board meeting

Ms. Tripoli will try to attend; Ms. Pooley may also go.

Homeland Towers

Ms. Tripoli stated that she has recused herself from any vote or correspondence about this project, because she resides in Bloomerside where it is proposed to construct the tower. Mr. Towers asked how interested the others were in the visual impact of this proposal.

Ms. Welo said the public will comment, and Mr. Towers said he thinks the CAC is expected to comment.

Ms. Tripoli remarked that the cell tower will be built somewhere; she prefers the proposed location to some others.

Ms. Welo commented that the tower should be near a road so it can be accessed easily for maintenance.

Mr. Towers asked just where the proposed tower site is, and Ms. Tripoli explained that it is at the back of the golf course and behind an old farmhouse in Bloomer Road.

Ms. Welo said the CAC could send an e-mail with their comments to the Planning Board. She reiterated her concern about appropriate access to the tower and said she will go to the Planning Board offices to look at the Homeland Towers application.

Ms. Tripoli noted that Planning Board meeting minutes area also available.

Ms. Welo said that if she finds anything interesting in the application file, she will e-mail the others.

Mr. Towers asked how tall the tower will be.

Ms. Tripoli said she doesn't think most people will see it.

Mr. Towers remarked that it seems few people will be impacted.

Removal of invasive species from wetlands

Ms. Tripoli said she has not had time to do anything since the last meeting, but she will get to it.

Ms. Pooley said she spoke to Bruce Thompson about a property adjoining one she works on. There were 7000 sq. ft. of phragmites on the property, and it is being managed by hand-cutting twice a year in June and September. Ms. Pooley reiterated her intention to look into the garden on Bonnieview Street.

Mr. Towers asked if the CAC is only concerned about invasive species in wetlands.

Ms. Welo said they are more aggressive in wetlands.

Ms. Tripoli said Supervisor Lucas's request was that the CAC look into a way to make the wetlands activity permit process less onerous for people seeking to remove invasives.

Outreach

Ms. Pooley said she would like the CAC to have a presence on the internet that would help educate people about invasives.

Mr. Towers asked what the likelihood is that a North Salem resident has invasive species.

Ms. Welo said there are a lot in Town.

Ms. Pooley thought so too, saying she would like to see a "did you know" feature online to promote awareness. Ms. Pooley said she will create a Facebook page and use a photograph of the Titicus Reservoir, and she suggested inviting the Supervisor to the CAC's April meeting.

Mr. Towers wondered just how large a problem invasive species are.

Ms. Pooley said they really couldn't know. She mentioned a past discussion of doing a postcard mailing about invasives, adding that perhaps the CAC could do something like that with the Improvement Society.

Mr. Towers said his point was that he would not want to be accused of creating alarm if the invasives problem is actually small.

Ms. Pooley was not sure how they could find out, but she thought they could alert people to which plants are invasives.

The group talked about how people sometimes even purchase and plant invasives like barberry and burning bush, because they are attractive and don't realize they are invasive species.

Mr. Towers asked if they might speak to Paige Dickey (*North Salem resident, garden expert*).

Ms. Pooley said Ms. Dickey's husband had previously expressed interest in working on the CAC, adding that they should ask the Supervisor when a fifth CAC member might be appointed.

Mr. Towers suggested including photographs of common invasives on the Facebook page.

Ms. Pooley noted that the CAC has no budget for a mailing, but she did speak to Beverly Golisano (*Recreation Superintendent/handles the Town newsletter*), who told her they should submit their article in March for the Spring newsletter.

Specific Sites

Bloomerside – Ms. Welo is looking into the specifics of the cell tower proposal.

Highgate/Woodlands – Nothing new at present.

Fuelco Food Marts/Fields Lane – Ms. Welo remarked that testing will be required to see if there is evidence of any fuel spill from the previous gas station.

Mr. Towers expressed concern about how the new gas station/convenience store will look, given that its location is at an entrance to Town.

Mr. Towers returned to the subject of Highgate/Woodlands. He commented that after all the heavy snow recently experienced in the area, emergency vehicles could have an especially difficult time reaching residents of the proposed development, given the steep approach road and narrow on-site roads proposed.

Ms. Pooley commented that there will be a lot more discussion and investigation regarding Highgate/Woodlands.

Mr. Towers asked if the CAC should send an e-mail to the Planning Board about considering the impact of snowfall.

Ms. Tripoli offered to compose a short paragraph to the Town Board and the Planning Board.

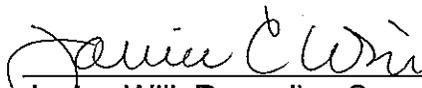
Future Activities

It was agreed that the CAC has enough to work on for the time being.

Next Meeting: March 18

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary