

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2015
Delancey Hall

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

Member Absent: **Janine Selendy**

Also Present: **Amy Rosmarin, Town Board Member**
 Janice Will, Secretary

Co-chairperson Lori Tripoli opened the meeting and invited Amy Rosmarin to address the Council.

Ms. Rosmarin explained that she was present to talk to the CAC about planned expansion of the Algonquin gas pipeline, in particular as it pertains to the compressor station in nearby Southeast. Ms. Rosmarin said she has been trying to arrange a meeting/site visit, and she would like to ask Alan Towers to attend with her.

Ms. Tripoli pointed out that the pipeline expansion has already been approved, but Ms. Rosmarin said a group is challenging the approval.

Nancy Welo commented that, although the CAC has no enforcement role, they would certainly be interested in more information about the pipeline.

Pam Pooley agreed, adding that it is fine for Mr. Towers to go to a site meeting and get information, but the CAC may not do anything with it.

Ms. Rosmarin was thanked for coming to the meeting, and she left.

Minutes of April 20 and June 1 meetings
The minutes were unanimously approved.

Meetings attended

Ms. Pooley said she attended a recent Planning Board meeting at which the Salem Golf Club application was discussed. Ms. Pooley stated that the Planning Board received the CAC's comments on the proposed project and responded to them at the meeting. She noted that the representative from Tim Miller Associates stated that the area to be disturbed is not a bat habitat, but bat boxes will be put up in the meadow/rough any way. She added that they also plan to plant more trees than will have to be taken down for the construction. Ms. Pooley was pleased to say that the Planning Board even discussed the

CAC recommendation that some parking spaces be specially allocated for hybrid and electric cars, adding that if there is enough use of the spaces, maybe it would merit installation of a charging station.

Mr. Towers asked if the overall parking is adequate.

Ms. Pooley said it was discussed, and she also stated that the Planning Board is looking forward to receiving the CAC's comments on Hawley Woods.

Hawley Woods subdivision

Ms. Pooley noted that this 48-acre site is a long term project, currently proposed to be subdivided into just 3 large residential lots with a shared drive. She added that there have been no perc tests done yet. She said the area is environmentally sensitive because it is climate-resilient, and run-off management will be an issue because the site is steep. Ms. Pooley said some neighbors were present at the Planning Board meeting and seemed quite concerned. She explained that the entire file will be available on Drop Box for people to look at. Ms. Pooley said the CAC has 30 days to comment/the public hearing is still open.

Ms. Welo commented that creating just 3 lots with no further subdivision permitted would be good.

Ms. Pooley said she would like the CAC to comment in terms of water and wells and because the site is a wildlife corridor and beautiful woodland.

Ms. Tripoli said the CAC will need to meet again before July 15 to discuss and agree to the comments to be submitted to the Planning Board. She thought they should applaud the reduction to 3 building lots and perhaps mention concerns about the road cut and protection of wetlands.

Mr. Towers agreed that the small number of lots should be applauded.

Ms. Welo asked to look at the file before the CAC schedules their meeting; she will check the maps with regard to wetlands.

The CAC will meet again on June 25 at the Library to work up a memo with comments about Hawley Woods for submission to the Planning Board.

Participation in Library fair

Ms. Tripoli thought the CAC's effort had been worthwhile, and Ms. Pooley added that it was a good group effort.

Mr. Towers remarked that the seed packets were successful/people like to take something away with them. He added that the educational materials would have moved better had they been clearly marked, both with what they were for and that they were free. Mr. Towers thought that it was hard for people to tell what the CAC was at the fair for, but it was good to be seen participating by Town officials and people from the North Salem Open Land Foundation.

Everyone liked the banner Ms. Pooley purchased to use at the fair.

Mr. Towers thought they should have a more specific purpose if they participate in future fairs, but Ms. Welo pointed out that it is a casual event attended by families.

It was agreed that having speakers would not have worked very well at this type of event.

Mr. Towers wanted the CAC to do something more educational in the future.

Ms. Welo thought this could be accomplished by offering more information on the CAC's website with links to further information.

The members agreed that they would participate in the Library fair again.

Inspecting conservation easements

Ms. Tripoli read a draft letter she wrote to the Town Supervisor/Town Board asking them to approve the CAC's participation in inspection of conservation easements.

There was some discussion of wording in the letter. Ms. Tripoli thought it was important to agree on language; she will re-do the draft and they can agree to the wording at their next meeting.

Invasive species removal from wetlands

Ms. Pooley stated that she has not been able to get to this yet, but she will do it.

Update on noise

Mr. Towers stated that the Town Board held a public hearing for all the proposed changes to the Ordinance. He noted there were not a lot of comments from members of the public, although he made a personal statement. Mr. Towers said he sensed that some Town Board members were opposed to any restrictions on individuals using equipment on their own property, although the CAC recommendation only included a construction ban on Sundays and no changes to the current exemption for grounds maintenance. He commented that it seems the Town Board will vote on all the proposed changes at one time.

Ms. Tripoli said it was good to have the issue discussed by the Town Board.

Mr. Towers said the CAC also came up in a discussion of social media-use, and he asked how that can be controlled if agencies are empowered to use it.

Ms. Tripoli said she understands the Board's concerns and feels the subject merits discussion. She remarked that the CAC Facebook page is innocuous but other may not be.

Ms. Welo said some sites offer information but do not allow comments to be posted.

WP15-02 Steiner, 148-164 Finch Road

Ms. Welo stated that she went on the site inspection with Bruce Thompson and Joe Bridges recently. She explained that someone in the past dug a small decorative pond on the property which created a wetland, and there is also a wooded wetland area at the other end of the property. The existing house is within the buffer area. She said the group was met by a representative of the current property-owner, and they walked the perimeter to see if the proposed work will impact the wetlands. Ms. Welo said the owners want to put a small addition on the house and have a generator installed, and they have already gotten a DEC general permit. The 100 ft. wetland buffer area is already impacted by lawn. Ms. Welo added that she told Mr. Thompson that the CAC would support approval of the wetland permit as long as the boundary information provided is correct; even if the boundary is changed the work area seems it will be small enough to approve the application as long no work is performed within 50 ft. of the DEC wetland boundary. She felt there was no need to write a report of her comments as she relayed them to Mr. Thompson while in the field.

Homeland Towers/Bloomerside

Nothing to discuss.

Camp Hemlock

Ms. Welo explained that this is a small part of Mt. Lakes Park (a County park) that is being set aside for administration by North Salem/just for use by North Salem residents.

Ms. Tripoli said she read in a local on-line newspaper that the Town is interested in suggestions/comments for use of Camp Hemlock, but it is not an official comment period.

Ms. Welo said she has not heard of any kind of environmental issue, and Ms. Pooley added that it does not seem like anything the CAC needs to respond to.

Next meeting: July 20.

Confirmed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary