

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 18, 2016**  
**Library, 5 pm**

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

**Also Present:**               Janice Will, Secretary

Lori Tripoli opened the meeting.

The minutes of the March 21 and April 11 meetings were unanimously approved.

Bees/Trees/Butterflies and May Library Fair

Janine Selendy congratulated the others on the April 17 Bees/Trees/Butterflies event.

Ms. Pooley said she learned a lot; the question-and-answer segment was long, but informative and the images were good.

Ms. Selendy agreed, remarking that people kept asking more questions.

Ms. Tripoli thought the information on pesticides was good.

Ms. Pooley said that it was challenging to try and manage the panel but also a good learning experience.

Ms. Selendy said she instructed her lawn-mowers to leave the grass 4 in. long, and Ms. Pooley said she has already suggested to someone that they not pick out their dandelions.

Ms. Selendy thought the CAC should write up the presentation for the local weekly newsletter and include pictures.

Ms. Tripoli asked for a volunteer, but it seemed as though everyone was too busy.

Ms. Pooley said she had been approached by the coordinators of the upcoming Library fair about bringing more of the little packets of seeds that the CAC gave away at last year's fair.

Ms. Selendy said she would like to invite Ken Greene of the Hudson Valley Seed Library to speak at an event next year, and maybe then she would also ask about the seeds.

Alan Towers arrived at the meeting, and stated that Ms. Pooley had made the CAC proud on April 17.

Ms. Selendy said the printed material made available was very good also, and she would like to include some of it at their table at the Library Fair.

Ms. Tripoli said she may have a few posters left from last year, and Ms. Pooley has postcards.

Ms. Pooley said she will also bring the milkweed plant plugs she purchased from the North Salem Open Land Foundation to give away.

Mr. Towers remarked that after hearing the April 17 speakers, people will stop mowing their lawns. He added that he was interested to learn that dandelions are good, and he will let them grow. He commented that lawn-mowing is really just a social trend.

Ms. Pooley said it is not too hard to put on this kind of event; H2H had contacted her about this one. She said she found it interesting the way the different speakers played off of each other; going forward, she thinks a presentation would be better than just a Q-and-A session.

Returning to her suggestion that something be written up for the weekly newsletter, Ms. Selendy offered to call the guest speakers and interview them as a kind of Q-and-A for feedback.

Ms. Pooley will forward the speakers' contact information to Ms. Selendy.

Regarding the Library Fair, Mr. Towers said he noticed last year that people didn't pick up most of the information displayed, but they did like the free seeds.

Ms. Tripoli has the banner from last year and <sup>some</sup> ~~also some posters~~ and written information. <sup>a swell</sup> ~~as + the posters~~

Ms. Welo said she got flyers from the Cornell Extension last year, which she can do again.

Ms. Tripoli asked if the CAC members would commit to 1 to 2 <sup>each</sup> hours at the Fair on May 7.

Ms. Welo said she is already committed to the bake sale group.

Ms. Pooley said she will be there a little after 10, and Mr. Towers offered to take the last shift.

Ms. Welo said she will be there early for the bake sale table, so she will drop off the copies of the Cornell flyers for the CAC then.

Ms. Selendy was not sure of her availability yet, but she will at least drop off the seeds.

Ms. Tripoli asked if they should have a back-up plan in case they don't get the seed packets.

Ms. Pooley said she has the milkweed plugs, but they are really part of the NSOLF's butterfly initiative. She told the others about a company in Texas that makes up custom packets; maybe she could get something with the CAC name on it.

Mr. Towers stated that if the CAC is going to conduct site inspections, they should really have a camera.

Ms. Selendy said she has a digital camera, but Mr. Towers thought there should be a designated CAC camera.

Ms. Welo said that would require someone to be responsible for it; it is easier to compensate/reimburse someone for using their own camera.

Ms. Tripoli commented that they will not need to print any photos, and Ms. Selendy offered to put any photographs taken on a flash drive.

After researching the Texas company on-line, Ms. Pooley stated that they do not produce custom seed packets any longer.

Mr. Towers said he thought people liked last year's seed packets because they were professionally-done/looked very good.

Ms. Selendy offered to ask the seed donor if someone can design packets for the CAC, if they have any money to spend/can get reimbursed for something like this.

✓ MS. Tripoli noted that the CAC only has about a month to do something.

Ms. Pooley suggested that she can get other kinds of plant plugs (black-eyed susan, echinacea, etc.); they would have to be purchased, but she thought she could ask to be reimbursed by the Town. She said the plugs are very tiny, but they come in groups of 5. She offered to ask Supervisor Warren Lucas about reimbursement for such a purchase. Ms. Pooley will also look into printing up stickers or some other small thing with something about the CAC on them.

Ms. Welo advised against magnets, because they are not recyclable.

Ms. Selendy thought an announcement about the CAC's table at the Library Fair should be placed in the weekly newsletter. She will ask the donor for 200 seed packets.

#### Electronic-Recycling

Ms. Pooley had said the CAC will help with this Improvement Society event, and Ms. Tripoli said she can do it for a while.

Ms. Pooley asked her to let Cynthia Curtis know she is available.

Ms. Tripoli will see what time people are needed and let Ms. Curtis know that she and Ms. Pooley will each work for an hour.

#### Inspection of Conservation Easements

Ms. Tripoli said the CAC had approved a friendly-version of a letter to easement-owners, and the Building Inspector had asked that the Assistant Building Inspector, Paul Taft, also be cc'd. Ms. Tripoli will make the requested change and send the letter to Gloria Stein of the NSOLF, owner of the Bloomer Road easement to be the CAC's pilot inspection.

Mr. Towers said that, of the dates mentioned, he would prefer to do the inspection on a Monday, but Ms. Tripoli pointed out that they really need to see what suits Ms. Stein.

Ms. Tripoli stated that she had forwarded to the CAC via e-mail a checklist for use when conducting site inspections, and she told the others that Cynthia Curtis had located the previously-missing notebooks containing all the baseline information from the original conservation easement inspections. *conducted by a paid consultant*

Mr. Towers said Ms. Tripoli's checklist was very good and would be helpful; an earlier list he had seen was far too technical.

- ✓ Ms. Tripoli <sup>put</sup> pointed that the easements all have different language/conditions, so the CAC will need to contrast what is in the record with what they observe.

The checklist was unanimously approved.

#### Grants

Ms. Welo stated that she will certainly pursue some kind of grant in the future, but she has no time at present; she has not talked with Supervisor Lucas about this yet.

Ms. Selendy offered to provide Ms. Welo with some sources to check when she is ready to look into grants.

Ms. Welo commented that more grant money goes to large projects, which the CAC is not currently contemplating.

The group discussed tagging onto another group's large project. The H2H initiative was thought to be a good example of this; H2H got a grant which provided funds to be distributed to participants for specific work/projects.

Ms. Tripoli thought they should look into ways to collaborate with others.

Ms. Selendy suggested helping neighbors establish corridors as a kind of project H2H would like.

Discussion of grants to be taken off the agenda for the time being.

Ms. Pooley said Donna Merrill got the H2H trees for stewards; perhaps the CAC could get some to give away at the Library Fair. She explained that the trees come with a pledge to be signed by the recipient, stating that they will care for and keep track of the health/growth of the trees. She thought trees or shrubs might be a better give-away than the plugs discussed earlier and offered to speak to Ms. Merrill, and they could use the pledge also.

Ms. Welo thought she should not, because the Library will be selling plants/the CAC should not been competing with the Library's fund-raising efforts.

Mr. Towers disagreed, saying some trees from the CAC would not discourage people from buying the Library's plants. He thought they could ask people to take the pledge anyway.

Ms. Pooley will see what she can get.

Best Management Practices/Invasives

Ms. Pooley said she really needs to sit down with this and work on it, but she will not have any time until July.

Ms. Tripoli will put the subject back on the agenda then.

H2H

This was discussed earlier; the CAC will try to keep up this partnership.

Meetings Attended

There have been no meetings since the last CAC meeting.

Hawley Woods

Ms. Tripoli said she drafted a second set of comments on this proposed project, and Ms. Pooley read the letter aloud.

The group contributed some editing comments, and the revised letter was unanimously approved.

Palaia Subdivision

Ms. Tripoli said the CAC has received the Planning Board's Declaration of Lead Agency, which includes a Lead Agency Consent Form and asks for approval and comments.

Mr. Towers felt responding that they approve the Planning Board as Lead Agency would mean that the CAC agrees the Planning Board has jurisdiction, the opposite of what the applicants' attorney states; he was not sure the CAC should take sides.

Ms. Tripoli disagreed and said subdivision is overseen by the Planning Board in North Salem.

Ms. Welo pointed out that the legal precedents cited by the attorney are not from North Salem/do not apply to the Town's zoning.

Editing ideas were shared; Ms. Tripoli noted that failure to respond is taken as consent.

Ms. Welo was in favor of simply consenting to the Lead Agency Declaration; such a document could be used as a boiler plate in the future when the CAC is included in the circulation of Lead Agency Declarations.

Ms. Tripoli agreed.

The CAC finally reached unanimous agreement on changes to the comment letter to the Planning Board (consenting to the Board's Lead Agency and objecting to the proposed subdivision), and Ms. Tripoli will send it along with the Consent Form.

Gizzi/884-894 Peach Lake Road

Covered at the previous meeting; remove from agenda.

Zakerin/6 Lakeside Drive

Ms. Tripoli will recuse herself from this application.

It was noted that this is a waterfront lot; the proposed new house will be farther from the water than the existing house.

Salem Hills Health Care Center/539 Route 22

The most recent correspondence received re this application was an April 6 memo from the planning consultant, requesting further information from the applicant. Application is on-going; keep on agenda.

Gilport Development/Salem Hills Subdivision

The planning consultant has requested additional information. On-going; keep on agenda.

Rylan West/Railyard/621 Route 22

Not of particular concern to the CAC. Take off agenda.

Fuelco/2 Fields Lane

Nothing new; keep on agenda.

Salem Golf Club

Nothing new; keep on agenda.

Strutt, WP16-02/724 Titicus Road

New application, relating to conversion of church to single-family residence. Keep on agenda.

Ms. Pooley remarked that it would be helpful if everyone would read any correspondence received before CAC meetings.

Future Activities/Plans

Nothing more to be added at this time.

Next Meeting: Monday May 16.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Janice Will, Recording Secretary