

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 16, 2016
Library, 5 pm

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

Also Present: Dawn McKenzie, Insite Engineering
 Janice Will, Secretary

Lori Tripoli opened the meeting.

The minutes of the April 18 meeting were unanimously approved.

Review of Annual Library Fair

Ms. Tripoli commented that turn-out was low due to the weather, but she added that the seed packets were very popular.

Janine Selendy agreed, saying that people seemed to appreciate them.

Ms. Tripoli thanked Ms. Selendy for getting the seeds and also for the article in the North Salem News about the Bees/Trees/Butterflies event in April.

Ms. Selendy said the speakers had been very helpful when she called them for input.

Review of Electronics Recycling/CAC Helping NSIS

Ms. Tripoli stated that she and Pam Pooley assisted the North Salem Improvement Society with this event, and she felt it had been a success/a lot of people came out.

Ms. Pooley agreed, adding that electronics recycling is always available in Town.

Ms. Tripoli noted that the NSIS people were all wearing NSIS Earth Day tee-shirts, and she said it would be good for the CAC to get something like that.

Ms. Pooley said she will contact Ken Green (Hudson Valley Seed Library) about getting a logo the CAC might use.

Nancy Welo showed the others a tree logo she made which she offered to share.

Ms. Selendy said a CAC logo on reusable grocery bags would also be good, and it is possible to get bags made in the US.

WP16-02 Strutt (724 Titicus Road)

Dawn McKenzie of Insite Engineering was present.

Ms. Tripoli explained that CAC meetings are open to the public; this does not necessarily mean that members of the public will be invited to participate, but the meetings are informal and Ms. McKenzie was welcome to speak if she wanted to.

Ms. McKenzie said she was present to answer any questions the CAC had about the Strutt plans. She noted that changes were made to the site plan based on the comments of Joe Bridges, Town Wetlands Consultant.

Ms. Pooley stated that she, Alan Towers and Ms. Tripoli had all gone on the site inspection; CAC comments will be prepared and sent on to the Building Inspector.

Ms. Tripoli said the CAC's comments included keeping the number of trees to be removed to a minimum. She added that Mr. Towers was also concerned about run-off from the proposed parking area.

Ms. McKenzie explained that there will be a level-spreader to catch any run-off from either the backyard or the turn-around near the house; there is a stone trough that infiltrates what it can, and then a 15 ft.-long level, concrete curb serves to spread any overflow.

Mr. Towers expressed concern about an area in front of the proposed garage that he thought was less than 50 ft. from a stream.

Ms. McKenzie said it is farther way than that, but less than 100 ft.

Mr. Towers commented that the grass in this area is sparse, and he thought oil, anti-freeze, etc. from the paved parking area would run toward the stream when it rains. He expressed concern about plants "taking" in this area and suggested also employing some kind of non-porous barrier to direct water toward the level-spreader.

Ms. McKenzie said this has been addressed. She turned to one of the drawings and pointed out the garage/driveway/turn-around. She said a cut-off swale will serve to keep water away from the house, adding that the site generally drains toward the road. Ms. McKenzie said there is already a barrier of soil piled along a wall; the swale will direct water toward the level-spreader.

Mr. Towers said he was concerned that contaminants from cars could get into the stream, but Ms. McKenzie said the swale will be 1 ft. deep.

Ms. Selendy asked if underground drainage will be used.

Ms. McKenzie said it will not be used in this area because surface-flow is being managed; if the water were to be under-drained, it would have to have an outlet that is low enough, and the point was to try and eliminate run-off within 50 ft. of the stream.

Mr. Towers asked if it wouldn't still be possible to also put in the non-porous barrier he mentioned earlier.

Ms. McKenzie said it would be possible and he could certainly recommend that, but she felt the revised plan was sufficient. She reminded the CAC that the displayed plan is revised from the original submission.

Ms. Pooley commented that the CAC is only an advisory council.

Ms. McKenzie said that if the Building Inspector and/or Wetlands Consultant are not convinced of her plan, they can ask her to prove the level-spreader works. She added that Mr. Towers' point was valid.

Ms. Tripoli asked if the CAC wanted to work up their comment letter; they could do it at this meeting/not need to meet again until the regular June meeting. She read aloud the draft she had composed so far.

The other CAC members offered suggestions/changes, including use of botanical names for plants, preservation of habitats and installation of bat boxes.

Ms. McKenzie said she will amend the plan notes to read "native/non-invasive plants".

Mr. Towers wanted to know if the generator control panel will include the septic pump.

Ms. McKenzie said the tank would be sufficient in most power-emergency situations, but the pump is also on the control panel.

The CAC concluded their review of the comment letter and unanimously approved the final draft.

Inspection of Conservation Easements/Pilot Program-NSOLF/Bloomerside

Ms. Pooley asked that everyone forward their individual comments to her. She said that she had not noticed any violations of the easement agreement during the site inspection.

Ms. Tripoli said the finished report will be forwarded to the Building Inspector and the easement-owner (NSOLF). She added that the CAC may approve the report at their next meeting.

Ms. Pooley offered to write up the report. She suggested the CAC think about scheduling their next inspection; she thought a conservation easement at 238-242 Mills Road would be a good choice. Ms. Pooley will contact the Assistant Building Inspector, Paul Taft, about his availability (Building Inspector retiring June 30).

WP16-03, 2 Orchard Drive

Site inspection has not been scheduled yet; Ms. Welo will read the application and report to the CAC.

WP16-01, Pietsch Gardens
Permit issued; take off agenda.

Hawley Woods Subdivision
Nothing new at present; leave on agenda.

Palaia Subdivision
CAC comments submitted to Planning Board; keep on agenda.

WP15-05, 6 Lakeside Drive
To be discussed at next CAC meeting; leave on agenda.

Salem Hills Healthcare Center, 539 Route 22
Gilport Development/Salem Hills Subdivision
Nothing new at present.

Fuelco/BP
Salem Golf Club
Rylan West Realty
No further comments.

WP16-04, 141 Baxter Road
Ms. Tripoli to read application and report back.

Next meeting: June 20

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary