

**Conservation Advisory Commission
Minutes of April 21, 2011 Meeting**

Present: Steve Appel, Curt Pueschel, Shepard Bennett, Richard Pastore, Cynthia Stephens/Westerman

Excused: Michael Restuccia, Linda Green

Minutes of the March 17, 2011 meeting were approved by e-mail on March 28. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2011. The first field trip to increase our familiarity with Town parks is scheduled for noon, Saturday, May 7. We will meet at the West Sheedy (formerly Juneberry) Road entrance to Middendorf Park. After we finish at Middendorf, we will carpool to the south end of the Rock Road Glen because parking near the site is limited. Our Town Board contact, David Marnicki, is hoping to join us.

Steve spent some time in the Engineering Department learning about the capabilities of the GIS system <http://broomegis.co.broome.ny.us/website/gisweb/gisappswarning.htm>. He was given a *set of instructions** Curt will copy and distribute to all members. Steve asked the Town Engineer, Gary Campo, about the status of Rock Road. Gary indicated that at present there are no plans for the site.

David Marnicki communicated by e-mail the news that the Town Board has approved expanding the CAC by creating positions for two alternates. The newly created posts will be advertised. The request for staggered two-year terms for CAC members was also approved. Members expressed their appreciation for the Town Board's positive response to our requests. To initiate the staggered, two-year appointment cycle, we are to provide names and proposed terms for approval. It was agreed by consensus that our request will be to extend the present terms of Curt, Cindy, Dick, and Shep through 2012. The remaining members, Steve, Michael, and Linda, will each finish their one-year term this year and then will be considered for appointment to a full two-year term.

There was a brief discussion of letters Cindy and Curt had forwarded to CAC members by e-mail. These letters were responses from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to inquiries made by a citizens group regarding Jones Park. The park agency's response stated that sale of timber or leasing of drilling rights would violate the terms under which the state had provided funds for purchase of the Jones Park property. These letters provide clear and official confirmation of the concerns that the CAC has expressed to the Town in our minutes and communications dating as far back as 2008.

The CAC has suggested that each town park should have a management plan so that all understand the goals for which each park is to be managed and also to inform discussions of budget priorities. In addition, the Town's current contract with the forester specifies CAC involvement in helping to identify "desires, goals, and objectives" for the parks, and we are happy to contribute in positive ways. Curt suggested that the CAC begin to formulate what, in the CAC's opinion, should be included in an effective park management plan. One place to begin is to review management plans for state parks, some of which can be found on the web at <http://www.nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>

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Curt is gathering information on the Manchurian ash, which is related to the black ash but is resistant to the emerald ash borer. There is some prospect that this species, which comes from the natural geographic range of the emerald ash borer, could be naturalized in our area. This information could be useful to the Town in its continuing discussion about dealing with the current threat to the native ash trees on Town land and right-of-ways.

Cindy reported on two meeting that she attended: the NYS Wetlands Forum in Lake Placid and an Energy and Sustainability meeting at Cornell.

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How to get to the Town of Vestal's Zoning Map On the Broome County GIS (Geographic Information System) Website (Portal)

1. Go to - <http://broomegis.co.broome.ny.us/website/gisweb/gisapps.htm>
Or type "Broome County GIS Portal" in a search engine such as Google.com. Disable pop up blockers off for this site. All of the pages will take some time to generate due to the size of the files. *'FAST LAUNCH'*
2. Go to - Left Side Bar button "Unified Parcel Information System" - A survey page may pop up at this time; press "do later" or "already done" to proceed.
3. Then a "Terms of Service" box will appear; click on "I agree to terms" to proceed. *'SEARCH'*
4. A "Warning" will appear. This is stating that these maps are for information purposes only and cannot be substituted for a land survey or legal documents. Click OK.
5. Click the "Zoom In" **Zoom In** button on the left sidebar. Click and drag a box over the area that you would like to view in the Vestal area of the map.
6. Click on the "Layers" **Layers** button on the left sidebar. Another pop up menu will appear.
7. Click on the box that says "Municipal Zoning". A drop down menu then appears with small boxes to check to see the zoning of all Broome County Municipalities. Check "Vestal Zoning". Then go to the top of this box and click on the red **Update Map Layers** link. The "layers" pop up will disappear.
8. Click on the "Legend" **Legend** button on the side to have a legend of the zoning colors and what designations they represent.
9. To print a map click on the "Print Map" **Print Map** button on the sidebar. Another pop up will appear that says "Print Displayed Map". Leave everything as is except the Orientation button. Push "Portrait" for a full page map. Then click the "Create Print Page" Button. Another pop up will appear.
10. From the file drop down menu on this page pick "Print" and proceed as you would with your existing printer.