

Conservation Advisory Commission  
Minutes of June 16, 2011 Meeting

Present: Curt Pueschel, Shepard Bennett, Cynthia Stephens/Westerman, Michael Restuccia, Linda Green, Steve Appel

Excused: Richard Pastore

Minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting were approved by e-mail on May 2. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 21, 2011.

The Town Board has appointed Shep, Dick, Cindy and Curt to two-year terms beginning next January, thus their appointments will continue through December 2013. Steve, Michael, and Linda were re-appointed for 2012. All future appointments will be two-year terms. The CAC appreciates the positive response of the Town Board to our request for this change in term limits and the staggering of terms. CAC members will try to recruit candidates to fill the earlier approved two 'alternate' positions.

One of the concerns that arose from our walk in Middendorf Park was the presence of several invasive plants species that could replace native wildflowers. Curt discussed methods used for invasive plant control with faculty involved in managing the Binghamton University Nature Preserve. Advice and assistance were offered should we pursue this problem. Curt reported that he will approach Vestal High faculty about the possibility of involving students in possible CAC projects, such as the tree inventory project for Town right-of-ways and invasive plant control in Middendorf Park. Should these projects progress further, the Parks Department will be approached to discuss how we might best work together.

The field trip to Jones Park was discussed. Electronic files of trail maps and GIS aerial photos of the park had been previously shared by e-mail. Objectives of the field trip were discussed. We will visit the old firearms range, examine one or two of the pine plantations, view the wetland ponds built by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), examine streambank erosion problems, and walk the stream trail, which is rich in wildflowers and is one of the nicest features of the park. Cindy will contact Erin Heard of the USC to learn the number and locations of the constructed ponds. We will meet in the parking lot on Monday, June 27 at 5:00 PM. David Marnicki will be invited to join us.

Members noted that at least two homes of the Rivercrest residential neighborhood have been demolished. Given that these houses were part of a proposed historic area and their condition had been the subject of considerable controversy, the absence of any note in the media is surprising.

The Planning Board and Broome County Environmental Management Council did not meet.