

Vestal Conservation Advisory Commission
Minutes of the February 19, 2015 Meeting

Present: Curt Pueschel, Steve Appel, Linda Green, Victor Lamoureux, and intern Stephanie Craig

The minutes of the January 2015 meeting were approved. The next regular meeting of the CAC is scheduled for March 19, 2015. At the Supervisor's request, we will yield the Board Room to another group for our normal meeting times in March and April. Curt has reserved the small conference room in the library for those meetings.

It was brought to the members' attention that the League of Women Voters will have a lecture in the Vestal Public Library next Tuesday, Feb 24th at 6:45 on the subject of fracking. The speaker will be journalist Tom Wilber.

Curt communicated to Tonya Pinney, Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor, our request to meet with the Town Board, ideally on March 26, with March 2 and April 26 as alternate possible dates. Tonya indicated that documents to be presented should be sent in advance of the meeting.

Victor has Photoshop files of the pages for the ash and hemlock identification project. He suggested that, when we meet with the Town Board, we could bring samples and request funds to make copies for distribution. Copies could be made available in the Vestal Public Library and in the Town Hall.

The draft parks conservation management plan had been circulated electronically in advance of the meeting, and members were asked to contribute comments and corrections. Based on the comments received, editorial and organizational changes have been made. Curt is drafting an executive summary, which will contain our highest priority recommendations. When that is complete, Curt will distribute version 2.0 and members will be asked to focus their attention on the executive summary and the recommendations following the park descriptions. When we meet with the Town Board, one of our principal requests will be to obtain permission to apply for grants, such as the Trees for Tribes Program, that will allow us to work with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition on stream corridor issues. Victor suggested that we review other grants program, such as DEC Urban Forestry Grants, and ask the Board for their support should we decide to pursue making applications to these programs, as well.

In the course of discussions about stream corridors, Curt noted that extensive berms have been built along Sugar Creek west of Route 26. Presumably, this was done during one of the recent floods.

Steve was not able to attend the Planning Board meeting because the time has been changed to earlier in the day; however, the agenda for the meeting included discussion of the proposed new UHS building on the Parkway and tearing down the Plaza Diner, which would be replaced by another hotel building.