

Conservation Advisory Commission  
Minutes of the August 16, 2012 Meeting

Present: Curt Pueschel, Steve Appel, Cole Moore, Linda Green, Cynthia Stephens-Westerman, Dick Pastore, Shep Bennett

Excused: Victor Lamoureux, Michael Restuccia

The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on September 20.

Members discussed how best to follow up on the gas drilling report that was distributed to the Town Board and the Clerk's Office by both e-mail and hardcopy on August 2. A note of thanks was received from Councilwoman Fitzgerald and has been forwarded to CAC members. No other response about either the content of the report or our desire to meet with the Board has yet been received.

It was suggested that the gas drilling report and the other reports previously prepared by the CAC should be posted on the web. Curt will begin this process by preparing PDF files of the emerald ash borer report and the creek report and will arrange for these to be posted. After the Town Board has a reasonable amount of time to comment on the gas drilling report, it too will be posted on the web. It was noted that some of the questions raised by members of the public at a recent Board meeting were on topics addressed by the report; had the questioners had an opportunity to read the report, it would have been unnecessary to take time at a Town Board meeting to pose these questions.

It was reported in the minutes of the August 8th Town Board meeting that Town Attorney, David Berger, stated that present zoning regulations would preclude natural gas drilling in the Town. Therefore, the Town Board will either have to change the zoning regulations to allow drilling, or individual requests will have to be made to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The latter course of action would raise the question of whether the rezoning would have to be for just the parcel on which the well is located or for each parcel accessed by the horizontal bores, which can extend a mile from the drill pad. Because the mineral rights are part of each parcel, the latter interpretation would seem to be more appropriate, making this approach complicated.

Members also discussed the Town Board's August 8 decision to request that the Corps of Engineers dredge the Susquehanna River to reduce the possibility of floods similar in magnitude of those of June 2006 and September 2011.

The urban forestry grant program was discussed. Victor and Curt had explored the feasibility of making a grant application in the last competition, but it was clear that extensive groundwork is required to produce a credible proposal. We should begin working soon to position ourselves for the next round, which will probably be in spring of 2013.