

Conservation Advisory Commission
Minutes of the April 18, 2013 Meeting

Present: Curt Pueschel, Cynthia Stephens-Westerman, Shep Bennett, Linda Green, Victor Lamoureux, Steve Appel, Michael Restuccia,

Excused: Cole Moore, Dick Pastore

Minutes of the March meeting had been approved by e-mail. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on May 16, 2013.

Curt Pueschel reported that he had walked the Four Corners Park before the meeting and noted no ash or hemlock or Austrian pine trees, which are the only possible issues for this park.

Linda Green had distributed by e-mail two documents that she had drafted. One was a list of the possible properties we might consider; these were compiled from Julian Shepherd's list of natural areas, the two different lists of parks on the Town website, and the draft Vestal Comprehensive Plan of 2003. The second document was a check-list of features that could be scored for each property. The list of properties was reviewed and narrowed to the parks listed on the Town website plus the Ford Tract, and the DOT land that is leased to Vestal and referred to as the Susquehanna River bottomlands at Choconut Creek. The kinds of information about each property to be scored were then reviewed. Features described on the web will be included. The natural features, which are the critical component, will be scored using a combination of a list that Curt created and Linda's list. This list will be modified as needed based on our initial experiences. It was agreed that we would start with relatively small and simple parks to test our scorecard.

Victor volunteered to create a Google map that would show the properties. The importance of knowing park boundaries was discussed, and it was believed that phone GPS and map coordinates should prove sufficiently accurate for our purposes.

It was decided that all who were free would meet at Harold Moore Park at 6:00 on April 29th, weather permitting. After examining Moore Park, we will carpool to Twin Orchards Park, then African Road Park. If time and energy allows, Stratford Drive Park or Willow Point Park will be viewed.