

Pawling Conservation Advisory Board - Agenda

Thursday 9/25/25, 6pm, American Legion Building

Present: Robert Bergdall – Chairman, Mark Chipkin – Vice Chairman, Laura Facchin, Rick Wilson, Joseph Willie, Marie Vedder

Absent: Deborah Stewart, Lou Trombetta, Steven DiFalco, Lori Asquith

1) Discussion of draft Mission Statement – Laura

- a) Laura explained how the Mission Statement was loosely based on similar documents adopted by other Conservation Boards. The first two paragraphs are a statement of values and goals while the final paragraph makes a direct appeal to the public. The vision section is intended to be short and direct so it can be a tag line for social media, letterhead, or other public facing documents.
- b) Group discussed minor suggested edits:
 - i) Marie – Suggested some reordering in first sentence and addition of “residents” to last.
 - ii) Joe – Asked to incorporate mention of energy into statement.
 - iii) Rob – Suggested adding mention of Planning Board in addition to Town Board.
 - iv) Rick – Suggested we add more detail to Description section.
- c) Laura will be making the described tweaks to the “Who We Are” section.
- d) Action Item: Group members should draft language that could be added to the Description section; particularly more detailed information about Pawling ecology.
- e) Laura indicated that we should start thinking about visuals and what a logo might be. She will bring some examples to brainstorm in an upcoming meeting.

2) Discussion of skeleton CAB Website – Laura

- a) Initial skeleton reflects overall vision discussed during early CAB meetings in Feb-Mar.
- b) Discussion of potential materials to include:
 - i) Mark – Description of land preservation options for property owners.
 - ii) Rick – Access to Whaley Lake monitoring and DEC algal bloom reporting.
- c) Action Item: Group members should detail any sections/topics they would like incorporated so we can decide on an overall site structure and which sections should be prioritized.
- d) Action Item: Laura created a folder in google drive for submission of photos to use on the website. All photos should be labeled with the photographer’s name so we can seek permission if we’d like to use them. We do not have permissions on the photos used in the draft site.
- e) Calendar function – Laura described several methods of creating an events calendar. The group agreed that linking to a google calendar would be the most effective method as that calendar could be updated by all CAB members.

3) Solar Update – Joe

- a) Joe has submitted inquiries to 6 installers and gotten two quotes back. Currently the Teen Center, Town Hall, and Lathrop Center seem to be the most promising sites. Solar generation at these sites would reduce their bills through net metering.
- b) Wendel Weber has provided electric bill information and began discussing the project with Town Bookkeeper Christine Mitchell.

- c) Joe, Mark and Robert will set up another meeting with Wendel to discuss appropriate next steps and whether a presentation to the Town Board is needed before advancing further.
- 4) Update on Planning Board – 9/2 Presentation – Rob, Mark, Marie
 - a) The PB was appreciative of our letters submitted regarding recent site visits and encouraged us to continue to provide comments when we identify any concerns about pending applications. They do not want to implement the separate review period included in the Town code as this would add complexity to the application process. JoAnne Daley will continue to provide us with copies of all applications.
 - b) Robert will be providing the CAB members e-mail addresses to JoAnne so we can get access to the Planning Board Dropbox site. This will facilitate easier document access.
 - c) PB Vice-Chair Jay Erickson expressed an interest in Pawling participating in the NYS Climate Smart Communities program. Marie conducted some subsequent research described below.
- 5) Climate Smart Communities Program – Marie
 - a) Joining the program would require the Town Board to adopt a model resolution prescribed by NYS pledging to pursue 10 elements to achieve a more sustainable community. The town would be placed in a tier of the program based on completed programs and initiatives. Higher tiers make the town more competitive when seeking grants through the program. Tier 1 actions are pretty basic and the town likely already has enough in place to achieve this level.
 - b) Grant programs offered through the program include flood mitigation, resiliency planning, building efficiency, and other 'green' infrastructure projects.
 - c) Robert and Marie will be following up with the Planning Board via e-mail before we proceed to approach the Town Board.
- 6) Events and Continuing Education Roundup and Tracking – Rick
 - a) Rick has begun sending out a monthly roundup e-mail of continuing education events and maintaining a tracking spreadsheet of these events and any CAB attendees. Rick is open to any suggestions for improvement of the e-mail or tracking sheet from other CAB members.
 - b) Mark – Described attendance at recent Housatonic Valley Association Watershed Coalition Meeting on 9/15.
- 7) Tree Board Update – Mark
 - a) Tree Board recently met with DEC to discuss available grants for tree planting. Group has also been working on restoring the towns status with the Arbor Day foundation.
 - b) Under Town Code the Tree Board is separate from the CAB, however Mark will continue to serve as liaison between the two groups so we can look for opportunities to support one another.
- 8) 2026 CAB Budget Update – MS4 Mailings
 - a) JoAnne Daley requested Town Bookkeeper Christine Mitchell set aside \$6,000 in budget for MS4 mailings for the coming year. This would bring the CAB budget to \$7K total.
 - b) Lori – Has selected some educational materials that she feels are a good fit. Lori was not able to be present tonight and will discuss this at a future meeting.