

Pawling Conservation Advisory Board - Agenda

Thursday 2/19/26, 6pm, American Legion Building

Present: Robert Bergdall – Chairman, Mark Chipkin, Rick Wilson, Lori Asquith, Marie Vedder, Deborah Stewart, Joe Willie, Steven DiFalco, Lou Trombetta

Absent: Laura Facchin,

- 1) Beekman CAC – Suzette Lopane – Chairperson, Committee Members: Ken, Bill
 - a. Grape Hollow State Forest – Group discussed 1/20 meeting (attended by Rick, Joe) and letter of concerns submitted by Suzette on behalf of Beekman CAC.
 - i. There was agreement from both groups about the following concerns with the DEC's current plan:
 1. Proposed intensity of use, particularly the permissibility of mountain biking. Mountain bikers had several advocacy groups attending the Jan 20th meeting. It is unclear what category of forest the site is as this would affect permissible uses. Several group members were concerned about how permitting mountain biking often leads to extensive informal trails being established.
 2. Insufficient data about species currently present on the property. Discussion of potentially having SUNY Environmental, Sciences, and Forestry do "Bio Blitz" assessment. Information about site biology is essential to making intelligent management decisions about how to encourage a more diverse forest habitat.
 3. Grape Hollow is not included in the current East of Hudson Unit Management Plan. Inclusion in the UMP would codify proposed DEC management policy with regards issues such as logging.
 4. It would be desirable to have some kind of local stewardship organization that partners with the DEC to manage and maintain the area.
 - b. Discussion of collaboration on development projects affecting both towns.
 - c. Interest in having community preservation funds legislatively enabled for Dutchess County.
 - i. Means to provide funding for open space acquisition.
 - ii. Lou – Noted difficulty with finding land that is not prohibitively expensive.
 - d. Both groups will have representatives at Dutchess County Conservation Advisory Council Roundtable is on Wednesday 2/25 @ 6pm
- 2) Planning Board - 2/2 & 2/17 meetings
 - a. Discussed draft letter from Steven & Rob regarding Holmes Farm sub-division. Final draft will be circulated to CAB prior to going to Planning Board.
 - b. Lou – Requested inclusion of permeable paving options.
 - c. Steven – Requested clarification regarding splitting of wetlands between proposed lots. All wetlands should be included in open space lot.
- 3) Town Board
 - a. Climate Smart Communities resolution adopted 2/4

- b. Planning meeting with Supervisor Giordano is still pending
- 4) EV Charging Grant – Marie, Steven, Wendel
- a. Marie has completed large portions of the grant and provided it to Wendel
 - b. Marie will forward group log-in information for portal
- 5) Solar installation
- a. 1/28 mtg with Joe, Rob, Mark, and Wendel
 - b. Wendel forwarded engineers report to Town Board on 2/18
 - c. Electric rates are continuing to increase and help drive project forward
 - d. Install must begin by 7/1 to ensure town receives 30% credit.
 - e. Steven – Noted Hudson Valley Economic Development Corp is holding an educational event on 3/20. Rob will distribute the link to the group please forward it to any interested parties.
- 6) Website – Debbie
- a. MS4 Pamphlets are up
 - b. Discussed whether CAB minutes or agendas should be there. Decided to post minutes only.
 - c. Site is ready to be live – Debbie requested all board members review the draft site posted in Google drive.
 - d. Marie requested ATC events be added to the calendar
- 7) CAB Intern – Steven
- a. Discussed Grace’s first map produced as part of project.
 - b. Goal is to have Pawling specific maps that could be used by Town Board or Planning Board
 - c. Ideas for further mapping
 - i. Recreational trails
 - ii. Tax parcel lines
 - iii. Currently protected lands
 - iv. Index explaining map categories
 - d. Grace will be joining us in March & April meetings
- 8) Tree Board – Mark, Lori
- a. Pawling is now a “Tree City USA”
 - b. Currently working on selecting arborist
 - c. Doing census of village
 - d. Flushing out details of Donate-a-tree program
 - e. Arbor day has scaffold for tree regulation at varying levels of intensity. Tree Board feels this research should be applied to Comprehensive plan.
- 9) Tabled until next meeting
- a. Textile recycling
 - b. Green burial