

Pawling Conservation Advisory Board - Agenda
Thursday 7/29/26, 6pm, American Legion Building

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

1. Reducing Flood Risk in Smaller Municipalities - John Aloysius Zinda - Associate Professor, Global Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University
 - a. Group discussed flooding concerns specific to Pawling:
 - Flash floods and road washouts connected to heavy rainfall, ie: old 55
 - Culverts that are undersized or blocked by debris or beaver activity.
 - Long paved driveways creating additional runoff.
 - Water quality issues related to runoff in Whaley Lake and other local waterbodies.
 - Town fortunate to have great swamp as permeable buffer, flooding is typically very brief, how to protect this resource.
 - b. Discussion of Harlem Valley Flood resistance network – What additional resources would be helpful.
 - c. Assessments of culverts, bridges and historic dams.
 - d. Assistance adding swales or catchments
 - e. Ideas for how to incorporate measures for permeability and water quality into sustainable development.
2. The Understory - Regional Resilience Grants – Initial Discussion – Steve
 - a. "The Understory" prev Partnership for Climate Action in Rheinbeck.
 - b. Disbursement style grant, all funds provided at outset of project. Grant is 100% funded but any match improves scoring.
 - c. Grant is open to an extremely wide variety of projects. Looking for innovative projects which help the health of local forests.
 - d. Partnership with other organizations is a positive. Project must occur on property we own. Application deadline in November.
 - e. Group broadly discussed a variety of options. Will share more detailed plans via e-mail and discuss at September meeting. Initial ideas:
 - i. Steve – Invasives management
 - ii. Lori & Marie – Tree planting/widflower meadow/flood buffer
 - f. Steve will forward recording of information session to group.

3. Legacy Tree w Horn & Thomes – Rick
 - a. Rick had good conversation with Debbie Thomes about making legacy tree program easy to access.
 - b. Tree Board is working on legal outlines of the program and the design for the plaque/memorial that will commemorate donations.
4. Planning Board – 7/20 Mtg
5. Town Board
 - a. 7/8 Meeting
 - b. 7/22 Meeting – Resolution for Solar via Climate Smart Communities
 - i. CSC grant would further defray costs.
 - ii. Town may be able to gain higher status in program via uploading information about existing projects.
 - iii. J. McCarthy requested presentation from a vendor – NYS Energy Research Development Authority may be a good fit for this.
6. Comprehensive Committee – Rob
 - a. Rob provided map feedback to LaBerge regarding inclusion of CEA's, 457b land, and easements.
 - b. Was unable to attend the Committee meeting in July on NYS Smart Growth principles.
 - c. Additional stakeholders needed for August-October meetings.
7. Clothing Drop – Marie
 - a. Discussed program that would provide residential pickup in addition to box at transfer station or other location.
 - b. Marie will be researching whether signup is still available and what is currently available at the transfer station.
8. Website & Communications – Debbi
 - a. Plan on launching site and then posting to FB community pages to solicit photos and engagement.
 - b. Discussed posting of CSC and Tree City certifications.
 - c. Creating page with simplified information about easements and links to sponsoring organizations.
9. Steven – Dutchess County GIS System
 - a. Steven noted that Dutchess County has recently completed a transportation study "Moving Dutchess Forward" which is now part of the county GIS system. –