

**Town of Bethlehem  
Citizens Advisory Committee On Conservation**

**March 14, 2006 Meeting**

Members Present:

John Smolinsky, Chairman  
Michael DiPaolo  
Jeff Freedman  
Nancy Heinzen  
Libby Liebshutz

John Mead  
Valerie Newell  
Michael Waldenmaier  
Matt Watson  
Caleb Wistar

Staff Members Present:

George Leveille  
Janine Saatman  
Deborah Kitchen

Welcome and Introductions:

Members were welcomed by Chairman Smolinsky. Supervisor Egan gave a brief summary of the background of the CACC and its mission as established by the Town Board. Members introduced themselves. Town staff who will be working with the committee were noted: George Leveille, Director of Economic Development and Planning; Janine Saatman, Deputy Town Planner; Deborah Kitchen, Clerk; and Jason Baum, GIS Specialist.

Meeting Schedule:

Members set the meeting time and dates at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Meetings will be planned to be approximately 1 1/2 hours long. Minutes will be circulated to members and then posted on the committee's website.

George and John noted that CACC will report to the Town Board quarterly unless circumstances warrant other interim reports.

Draft Work Plan:

1) New Scotland area trail network –

The nature of the trail network as a collection of multipurpose facilities, including trails, sidewalks, and multipurpose paths, was discussed. The Vista technology campus, the Town's plans for a New Scotland Road hamlet master plan, sidewalks along New Scotland Road from the Price Chopper Plaza to the City of Albany, and the Albany County rail trail are proposals in the area which will potentially provide facilities that can be incorporated into the trail network.

Actions to be undertaken include:

- Identify environmental and recreational destinations to be connected
- Identify willing landowners in the subject area
- Identify areas of environmental constraints
- Identify existing "herd paths" and evaluate their potential for incorporation in the network
- Identify quick and inexpensive opportunities for trail segments

2) Open space protection funding -

The Community Preservation Act was discussed as a potential source of funding. The possibility of user fees was also talked about, as well as identifying things which can be done without funding.

Actions to be undertaken include:

- Invite the Open Space Institute to speak at CACC's next meeting regarding possible sources of open space funding and prioritization of potential open space acquisitions
- Research funding opportunities, including the Community Preservation Act (Caleb Wistar and Matt Watson)

Members agreed that education is an important component that needs to be added to their work. The addition of an invitation for email comments from the public and a suggestion box on the CACC website was requested.

Other Assignments:

- Members should submit their contact information if they have not already done so
- Members should decide what specific aspects they would like to work on
- A list of members should be added to the website
- A suggestion box and an invitation for e-mail comments should be added to the website

Next Meeting: April 10, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 101 of Town Hall