

**TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION (CACC)**

Draft February 12, 2007 Meeting Record

Members Present:

John Smolinsky, Chairman, Mike DiPaolo, Nancy Heinzen, Libby Liebschutz, Val Newell, John Mead, Ted Putney, Matt Watson, Caleb Wistar

Staff Members Present:

George Leveille, Deborah Kitchen

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Smolinsky lead a discussion of the draft quarterly report that he will be presenting to the Town Board on February 14 (rescheduled for February 28). Mrs. Newell indicated that she had sent in some comments and Mr. Smolinsky agreed to review them for possible inclusion in the report. Mr. Smolinsky then announced that as a result of his recent appointment to the Town Planning Board that he felt that it would be appropriate to resign from the CACC to avoid a potential conflict of interest. Mr. Smolinsky acknowledged notice received from Janine Saatman indicating her pending resignation from the Town and thanked her (in her absence) for her support and assistance to the CACC. Mr. Smolinsky thanked all the CACC members for their hard work and cooperation and the members, in turn, thanked Mr. Smolinsky for his leadership over the past year.

Task 1 Update: Slingerlands Integrated Trail Network Plan

Mr. Leveille brought the members up to date and reported that he had received a couple of comments that were incorporated in the final document. Jackie Hakes from Edwards & Kelcey will be making a presentation to the Town Board at its February 14 (rescheduled for March 14) meeting. Mr. Leveille also noted that a presentation on the recent New Scotland Road Hamlet Master Plan project would also be made at this meeting (rescheduled to February 28). It was agreed that Mr. Leveille would send each member a copy of both reports on a compact disk. Nancy Heinzen expressed concern that a more in depth review be conducted regarding proposed trails associated with new development in the area such as the Vista Tech Campus. Ms. Heinzen stressed the importance of understanding early on whether or not proposed trails would really work.

Task 2 Update: Open Space Programs – Funding and Tools Report

Mr. Smolinsky lead a discussion of the comments received at the January 8, 2007 public meeting regarding the report. In reviewing the comment summary prepared by staff, Mr. Smolinsky noted that the comments received mirrored many of the thoughts concerns and opportunities expressed at CACC meetings. Some members indicated that some residents might prefer a more private conversation about their open space interests and concerns. It was suggested that the Written Input Form be slightly amended and posted on the Town's web site. Several comments were identified as being noteworthy especially the idea that the Town could provide some basic standardized forms related to open space agreements as a way of helping to interest property owners. The members had a brief discussion regarding the functionality of open space having environmental benefits. A guest at the meeting, Dennis O'Leary, expressed interest in the importance of wildlife corridors as part of an open space program.

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Task 3: Map of Existing Conserved and Recreation Land

Mr. Smolinsky informed the members that the Town Board assigned the CACC a new task at its January 28, 2007 meeting. The task is to develop a map that shows existing lands in recreation and conservation use. Mr. Leveille presented a preliminary base map prepared by the Town's GIS specialist, Jason Baum. The members engaged in a spirited discussion of the task and made numerous suggestions about how this task could be completed. It was concluded that it might be useful to get further clarification from the Town Board as to what specific information they would like to see on the map. Also, several members indicated they would send information about existing land conservancies that could be included on the map. There was commentary from both CACC members and meeting guests that there should be no involuntary mapping of lands as part of this task.

Action Items:

- a. CACC members were encouraged to provide information about existing recreation and conserved lands to staff.
- b. Staff will make compact disks of the Slingerlands Pedestrian Network Plan and the New Scotland Road Hamlet Master Plan for the CACC members.
- c. Staff will seek further clarification from the Town Board regarding Task 3.
- d. Chairman Smolinsky will present a Quarterly Report to the Town Board on February 14 (rescheduled for February 28).
- e. Edwards & Kelcey will present the Slingerlands Integrated Pedestrian Plan to the Town Board on February 14 (rescheduled for March 14)
- f. Staff will post the amended Written Input Form (regarding the Open Space Funding ..Report) on the Town's web site

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Room 101