

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

August 13, 2007 Meeting Record

Members Present:

Libby Liebschutz, Chair; Mike DiPaolo; Jeff Freedman; Nancy Heinzen; John Mead; Val Newell; Ted Putney; Mike Waldenmaier; C. Wistar

Staff Members Present:

Rob Leslie, Debbie Kitchen

Chair Report:

A. Announcement/Introduction of new CACC member

Ms. Liebschutz announced that since the last CACC meeting, the Town Board approved the appointment of David Erik VanLuven to the CACC.

- B. Approval of July 9, 2007 Meeting Record:** Ms. Liebschutz asked the members if they had any final comments on the draft July 9, 2007 meeting record that was circulated. Committee members indicated the names of Jeff Freedman and John Mead were misspelled. Additionally, the Stevens Farm in Albany was misspelled. Mr. Leslie mentioned he would correct the spelling and the members voted to approve the meeting record. Mr. Leslie indicated the approved meeting record would be posted on the Town's web site.

C. Other

No other items were discussed.

Discussion of Task 3: Map of Existing Conservation and Recreation Land:

- A. Review of Map Classification Definitions** Mr. Leslie informed the Committee that he had met with Mr. DiPaolo at the end of July to draft the map classification definitions. Mr. Leslie stated that they had reviewed the lands that were illustrated in each of the classifications on the map and developed definitions that were appropriate. For example, lands that are identified as part of the educational classification are owned by school districts. Therefore, the educational definition states, "Lands owned and maintained by public school districts (i.e. Bethlehem Central School District and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District). Mr. Waldenmaier informed the Committee that the lands of the Five Rivers State Environmental Education Center totaled approximately 440 acres in size, and that the table located in the definitions document should be changed. Mr. Leslie stated he would adjust the table to reflect Mr. Waldenmaier's comment. Committee members approved the definitions as they were drafted.
- B. Review of revised map** Ms. Liebschutz asked the members if they had any comments on the map that was provided to each member prior to the night's meeting. Ms. Heinzen questioned if the Bioreserve, Pine Hollow Arboretum, and Van Rensselaer Forest Wildlife Preserve had any legal restrictions for future development. Mr. Leslie indicated that a discussion with a representative of the First Reformed Church revealed the Church has a deed restriction on the land for future development. Committee members were not aware of any easements or deed restrictions regarding the Bioreserve and Pine Hollow Arboretum lands. Mr. Leslie stated that he would provide a note on the map that these two lands are identified as conservation by their respective landowners, currently not legally protected from future development thru easements or deed restrictions. Committee members suggested changing the color of the municipal lands to a color that would contrast with the color of the Hudson River as shown on the map.
- C. Review of Draft Memo to Town Board from CACC regarding completion of Task 3** Initially a couple of comments regarding the language used in the memo were raised; however, upon

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clarification from Ms. Liebschutz the members agreed to approve the draft memo to the Town Board. Ms. Liebschutz announced that based on the Committee's approval of the map and classification definitions, Task 3 is considered complete. She informed the board that memo, which will include the map and classification definitions, will be submitted to the Town Board at the August 22, 2007 Town Board meeting.

Public Comment on Task 3

- Linda Jasinski asked if there was any update regarding the inclusion of the SUNY Cortland land located on Old Quarry Road.

Mr. Leslie stated he was not familiar with the location of the property so several members identified the general location on the map. Ms. Heinzen stated that the land was used for outdoor geology courses and research by SUNY Cortland professors and students. Committee members agreed that the SUNY Cortland land should be identified on the map as conservation land and the College should be contacted. Mr. Leslie stated he would contact the College and identify the land as conservation (orange) and indicate "Private" in the classification table.

Other

Ms. Liebschutz announced to the Committee that with the completion of the Map, the CACC currently has no projects to discuss. She suggested rescheduling or foregoing the September meeting until the Town Board tasks the CACC with another project. Committee members agreed and Mr. Leslie stated all members would be notified of the next meeting date. He also asked Members to check the CACC website for updates on the next meeting date.

Mr. Leslie notified the Members that all CACC meeting dates would now appear in the Spotlight's Calendar of Events.

Action Items:

- A. Staff to finalize the draft cover memo to the Town Board for the transmittal of the recreation and conservation lands map to complete Task 3.
- B. Staff to revise recreation and conservation lands map.
- C. Staff to contact SUNY Cortland regarding the SUNY Cortland Brauer Field Station.
- D. Staff to post July 9, 2007 meeting record on web site.
- E. Staff to email Normans Kill Riparian Stream Corridor Study to Val Newell.

Next Meeting:

Monday, October 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Room 101