

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 6, 2010

I. Call to Order

Roger Gustavel called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Members Present: Roger Gustavel, Pat Blarr, Debbie Beats, Jim Hopper, Debbie Lerner, Marian Prezyna,

Town Board Liaison: Don Darrow

Alternate Present: Shirley Limpinsel

Member Absent: Jim Heinrich

Roger welcomed Shirley and explained that as an alternate member Shirley's duty is to participate and attend all meetings. Shirley will have voting privileges when a regular member is absent.

II. Approval of Minutes

Roger asked if all members had the chance to review minutes from April. A copy was available for all to review. Deb Beats moved and Deb Lerner seconded to accept the April minutes as written.

AYES: 7 NAYES: 0 MOTION: Carried

Next Meeting: POSSIBLY FIRST THURS IN JUNE - WAITING TO HEAR FROM PAT SZARPA OF WNYLC

III. Reports from Members

- Marilla Comprehensive Plan - Don D informed that Town Board wants town citizens to have input and suggestions and ideas. The Town Board will use that input in updating the current Comprehensive Plan. Roger asked how town would get citizens input. Shirley informed that town would create surveys. Deb L informed that she went to County Planning Dept. County is on same page as our town in regards to saving agriculture land. County has plans to publish this policy shortly, possibly when state passes a state budget. **Marian informed about the town of MENDON, outside of Rochester, similar to Marilla, and is preserving their rural character while maintaining the architectural legacy of the town (preserving old buildings, cobblestone streets, "quaint" lighting in the streets, etc. and in the past had obtained grants from historical entities to restore historical buildings.** Jim Hopper asked how many active farms exist in town. Roger suggested that Ag and Markets probably have this answer. Organic farming was mentioned as a popular form of farming. Deb L suggested asking Alfred State about under grad and graduate Ag students in order to introduce them to the town to possibly become interested in farming in our town. **Marian suggested researching "niche" or "specialty" farming as an another alternative for farmers - dairy (cheese making, yogurts) grain growing (specialty grain and milling for artisan bread bakers, or even baking themselves)** Deb L and Marian informed they would like to see Ag Day expanded in both activities and time. Marian asked if Ag Day could be changed to a larger venue, **such as the Town Park to accommodate shepherding, weaving, basket making, craft guilds - equipment displays, farmers market stands - and mentioned the Common Ground Fair in Maine as an example.** Jim Hopper brought up the subject of the northwest corner of Two Rod Road and Bullis intersection. (Currently a vacant, privately owned building.) Discussed the desire for the town to purchase that small lot.

Discussed that it is too dangerous to convert to a parking lot due to its close proximity to the intersection. Roger reminded that he suggested this small lot be converted to a small town hamlet park a few years ago. Many members agreed with this suggestion. Don added this topic to his list of communications with the town board. Deb L suggested town talk to farmers to gather their input, ideas, suggestions, etc. Roger reminded that he wanted to do that awhile ago. Pat S told Roger that she suggests we meet with her first. Don took note of members who still need a copy of the current Comprehensive Plan and Code book.

- Training-Local Planning and Zoning Boards - Deb L supplied a flyer offering another training opportunity sponsored by NYSDOS. "Training for Local Planning & Zoning Boards". This would fulfill annual 4 credit hour requirement. Deb L would like to attend. Not mandatory for CAB members. However, many members are interested. Roger, Deb B, Shirley L and Pat attended the Planning Board Training Session held by Jason Paananen on 4/29 at Town Hall. Don informed that the town would probably pay a training session if a fee were required.
- Farmland Protection Plan - Roger set up a meeting last month with Pat Szarpa from the WNY Land Conservancy. However, it was cancelled. Roger trying to set up another with Pat S. As soon as that is set up Roger will communicate to all CAB members. Necessary for CAB to meet with Pat S to create a Farmland Protection Plan. Pat S inviting Diane Held, a grant writer, to join meeting. Marian mentioned there may be a freeze on all state grants **at the current time but said that this time could be used to "get all of our investigation and background work done" to be ahead of the game when the funds are released.**

#### IV. Unfinished Business

- Town Recycling - Roger reminded that this has been tabled. Farmland Protection Plan is now our number one priority. Marian informed that she would be very interested in taking a tour of the town recycling center. Roger reminded all that Highway Supervisor invited CAB to set up a tour on a Saturday morning if CAB is interested. Deb B volunteered to talk to Highway Supervisor regarding the recycling containers that could be used for community events. Don informed he would check into this, as well. Deb L will forward information she found on a website to Don. Deb B will research Grangers.

#### V. Adjournment

Roger requested a motion to adjourn. Pat B moved and Jim H seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

AYES: 7 NAYES: 0 MOTION: Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Blarr  
Clerk