

## **\*CAB MEETING MINUTES\***

**Date: October 3, 2006**

**Members Present:** Leonard Janiga -Chairman  
Bud Pearce  
Roger Gustavel  
Warren Cullen, Sr.

**Members Absent:** Ralph Burch, Jim Heinrich, Dave Muench  
**Also in attendance:** Councilman Fred Specht

Leonard Janiga opened the meeting @ 6:35PM.

Leonard asked for approval of September meeting minutes. Roger presented a few changes suggested by Jim Heinrich to the minutes, After review of these changes, Warren Cullen moved to accept the minutes as revised. All members approved.

Leonard presented a map of the Marilla Town Park to review with the other members. The members discussed what might be the best way to go about taking inventory of the park's shelters, playgrounds, and other assets. Bud Pearce suggested using a "Google Earth" image to get a better view of location of these structures in relation to boundaries and natural borders. He offered to obtain a copy of the Google image for next meeting.

Leonard presented a list of property owners in Marilla which was categorized by acreage amounts. Len stated that there were a high number of them in the 40 – 50 acre range. Seeing as the town will pursue only 1 PACE grant for 2007, he felt these are the landowners that should be contacted to seek interest for PACE. Leonard also stated that he feels that it is a mistake for the town to pursue only 1 PACE grant, for if a problem develops during that process, we would likely end up with no PACE purchases for the year. Councilman Specht said that he would pass on this concern to the town board. Councilman Specht also added that it depends on the amount of interest which is generated from land owners.

Leonard stated that Elma was able to re-apply for another PACE grant in 06. They had more money and more interest for the program, thus applied again. Councilman Specht said that Marilla did not re-apply.

Roger Gustavel stated that the board needs to come up with a decision by which means they will use to pursue land owners for PACE. They had previously discussed sending a letter with the Town's mailing scheduled for December. Or as discussed tonight, were they going to send letters to only the large parcel owner's. He presented a letter that he had composed to be included with the Town mailing. This letter was directed to all Marilla residents telling about the PACE program and Marilla's past success with it. The letter also asked that anyone interested in participating should contact the Town for more information. He felt this was the best way to find interested land owners while also letting the

residents know of Marilla's commitment to PACE. He suggested that we see what amount of response is generated by this letter, then to send a follow up letter to large parcel owners if needed.

Leonard stated that he was not comfortable with the CAB's responsibility of choosing the lone PACE grant participant from a group of applicants. He feels there could be conflict of interest. Roger said he did not read the list of CAB duties to say that we would make that decision. Leonard said that is what Supervisor Foss told him in conversation. Roger suggested that possibly we could rank the top prospects and allow the Town Board to make the final decision.

Roger Gustavel provided copies of the "Tax Credits for Conservation Easement" for CAB members along with a copy of Supervisor Foss's list of CAB duties he would like to see accomplished. Roger also presented a letter that he composed for the past participants in the PACE program. He feels the purpose of this letter should be to thank the landowners for their participation, inform them of the new tax credits, and seek more land.

The board discussed with Councilman Specht who should be the contact listed in the letter. It was decided that interested parties should contact the town clerk. The CAB would then be notified.

Councilman Specht reported to the board that he, along with Supervisor Foss and Councilman Warren Handley had attended a County meeting regarding the agriculture zoning rule. He added that the agricultural district for the town remains the same as last year. There were no changes made. This was to review the agricultural district map which must be approved by Erie County Environmental & Planning every 8 years.

Roger suggested to the board members that it would be good to have Pat Szarpa of the WNY Land Conservancy attend our meeting to provide more information on land trusts and conservation easements other than the PACE program. He had already contacted her and she agreed to attend November or December's meeting. Roger would arrange for her to come to one of the meetings.

Roger asked if the CAB should meet on November 7<sup>th</sup> since it was Election Day. The members agreed that they could as the Town Hall basement is not used for elections. It was agreed that they would meet on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Warren Cullen asked if we knew the deadline for PACE grant applications to be submitted and suggested that we should be prepared ahead of that time.

Warren moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20, Roger seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Gustavel

