

Attending: Eric Marczak, Peter Farquharson, Nelson Kent, Amy Pokorny

Eric opened the meeting at 7:44 PM.

Housekeeping

- Eric moved to approve the February meeting minutes, Peter seconded and the minutes were deemed approved.
- Eric reminded us to take tutorials on SEQR together or individually, and get certificates.

Organizational

Education and Outreach

- Eric, Peter and Amy met with the planning board on Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 pm.
- We'll plan to meet with the town board at a later meeting to introduce our proposal to do an OSI. Their next meeting is in April.
- The CAC would be well served by posting website informationals, meeting minutes and notifications.

Open Space Inventory (OSI)

- Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) grant opportunities open in May.
- OSI can take years. We should understand more clearly what we need before we request grant funding.
 - If Betty Ketcham can help us acquire maps, we might not need grants for mapping.

Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs)

- 617.14 of NYS DEC regulations describe the process for designating a CEA.
 - Establishment of CEA requires SEQR. We need to be familiar with SEQR as an early step in the process.
- For public input, we could ask questions in the May newsletter.
 - We need to identify what we want to know from the public.
 - Open ended questions about their vision for Knox, about karst features, and about water quality.
 - We'll develop some questions for late April deadline, for example:
 - How would you like Knox to be in 10 or 15 years from now? What do you value about living here?
 - Do you know of any sink holes or springs in Knox?
 - How is the quality of your well water? Do you use your well water for drinking?
 - If so, do you need to treat it for color, odor, taste? Are toxins a concern?

Map Library

Eric asked Peter to keep track of maps for Knox.

- Peter will make an inventory of the maps we have, and we will work to identify those we will need.
 - Amy will reach out to the PB, TB, ZBA for help filling out a wish list.
- Eric got Albany County Soil Maps from 1992.
- Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPS) flood insurance map from 2016 is posted at town hall.
- We have Nelson's map and diagrams of the town park, wetlands and boardwalk.
- Eric will look for the Albany County lidar maps of Knox and surroundings.
 - We can talk to specific landowners about sinkholes if lidar (laser or light imaging, detection and ranging) maps indicate locations.
- Eric plans to get 80 maps from DEC data.
- Eric will ask what the Albany County Office of Natural Resources Conservation can offer.
- Amy will ask Betty Ketcham to meet with us after next Wed 3/22 to see what data are available to her, what maps she might be able to access.

- The planning board would like a map of optimal sites for large scale solar PV development.
 - Amy will send a dated map of three phase power lines in Knox.

Wetlands Boardwalk Restoration Project

- Beavers have been active in the stream that crosses the lower section of the town park. It is flooding the walking path, but it does not appear to be affecting the wetlands.
 - Betty provided information on how to build a beaver deceiver to permanently address the flooding problem without killing the beavers.

Other Discussion

- Eric will share a list of contacts for resource people

Amy moved to adjourn at 8:47 PM, Nelson seconded and all approved.