

Attending: Eric Marczak, Peter Farquharson, Nelson Kent (by phone), Brigitte McAuliffe, Amy Pokorny

Dick Dexter also attended.

Eric opened the meeting at about 7:35.

Housekeeping

- Eric moved to approve the September meeting minutes, Brigitte seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Peter attended a Habitat Assessment training session and submitted his certificate of completion.

Organizational

- We should create a new secure email group for 2023 CAC business.
- Brigitte offered to do compilations of material for our annual report.
- Peter offered to do policy research and interpret relevant legislative changes.
- Our main focus will be on the OSI.
- We need to make the town board (TB), planning board (PB), zoning board of appeals (ZBA) and the building and zoning administrator (BZA) aware of how we can serve as a resource.
- The town board has a budget meeting on 10/25 – our request for funds for 2023 will be for the boardwalk project.

Education and Outreach

- We need to define our relationship with the PB. The town board (TB) has liaisons with the PB and ZBA. We may also deal directly with the TB on issues, and to keep them informed of our work.
 - Make them aware that we can serve as a resource.
 - Provide information about our role in SEQR, when it must be done, how it is determined.
- Peter prepared OSI summary information for distribution to the TB.
 - We will review and comment.
 - We will review other information Peter has sent us and compile ideas. Peter and Brigitte will work on a couple sections.

Open Space Inventory (OSI)

- Peter met Ingrid Haeckel at an event. She has moved and was replaced with a new Upper Hudson region liaison who can provide assistance with the OSI.
- Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP), DEC and Cornell fund OSI projects. We will need to seek grants.
 - Funds and expertise support GIS work and reports.
 - We can apply for next cycle of grants and assistance early in 2023.
 - We should begin application soon to HREP and have it ready. Only half of Knox is in the HRE watershed area so we'll have competition.
 - Cornell has some smaller annual grants available early in the year with less stringent requirements.
- The Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for New Paltz is self explanatory and would serve as a useful template.
- The current comprehensive plan was adopted in 1994. An update was drafted in 2014-15 but not finalized.
- Survey for households in Knox – Amy will provide information from the last town wide surveys from 2014-15.
 - To guide our focus for the OSI, ask what people value. Work for 60%+ response rate. Sample questions:
 - How long have you lived here?
 - Do you rent or do you own your home?
 - What do you care about, what matters most to you about living in Knox?
 - How satisfied are you with your water quality?
 - Do you treat your water?
 - If so, how?

- How deep is your well?
 - How often do you run out of water?
- Determine next steps for survey to landowners, including mobile home park residents.
- Brigitte will ask USPO contact what the largest size post card is we could use for return responses.
 - Ask for email addresses, use lock boxes to collect responses.
- Knox is likely to become an environmental refuge in coming years. We need to plan to protect the water and property values of our residents – examine how many households/people our resources can support.
- 2022 NYS legislation changes the 1975 Freshwater Wetlands Act’s definition of wetlands and expands the state’s protections. All mapped and unmapped areas exhibiting wetlands characteristics are now presumed to be regulated. We should identify potential wetlands as soon as possible.

Wetlands Boardwalk Restoration Project

- Eric presented examples of illustrations we will need to provide in our applications for permits from DEC. He has forms and instructions and we will plan to work on it in the spring.
- We can fix existing structures per DEC email to Eric. The town board agreed that we can start work on repairs to the boardwalk.
 - Eric will send a notice to the Enterprise to recruit volunteer help. Hudson Mohawk Land Conservancy and Thursday Naturalists may be willing to help.
 - We will start by pruning branches and making a pile out near the road. Amy will ask about having it removed. We can make teams of volunteers and coordinate scheduling of tasks.
 - Schedule a brush clearing party next weekend?
 - Dennis Cyr and Eric noted that the joints should be reconfigured so they meet on posts. Eric suggested using hemlock boards in matching dimensions painted grey where more material is needed.
- Parking area and plank walkway – we’ll need to consult with DEC about engineering requirements for plans. We may need professional determination of the wetland boundaries.
 - Brigitte knows of someone from Guilderland on Rt. 20 who has done work for the town in the past. She will look up his contact information.

Other Discussion

- Dick asked what we know about the excavation work around the Knox Store building. What are they doing, who is doing the work, why are they doing it? And is it safe? Amy recalled drainage problems along the east and south sides of the building.
- State and DEC Prop 1 bond act is on the back of November’s ballot:

CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS
Environmental Bond Act of 2022
"To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the "Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022" authorizes the sale of state bonds up to four billion two hundred million dollars to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency, and clean energy projects. Shall the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 be approved?"

Yes No
- CT Male tests for pollutants.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 PM.