

Town of Knox
Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Date: August 18th 2016

Present: Nathan Giordano
Dee Woessner
Laure-Jeanne Davignon
Pat Irwin

Also: Betty Ketcham, Planning Board
Eric Kuck, Town Board

Meeting opened at 7:39PM.

Minutes from June 2016 Meeting were approved.

There was no July 2016 meeting held.

Dee reported on the workshop she attended last month at the Huyck Preserve on the topic of Vernal Pools. There is a measurable difference between natural and manmade vernal pools in that natural ones tend to have a much greater amphibian egg count. Vernal pools are most beneficial to amphibian populations when they have a natural dry period to discourage fish predators from becoming established.

This year's insect populations were considered in discussion, those present shared their observations.

The proposed new business district was discussed in the area of routes 156 and 157. Some considerations that were noted include the underground geology and water systems, the scenic vistas and view-shed of the area, and the aesthetics of the area being a sort of gateway to the town for many commuters. It was discussed that input should be sought from local geologist Charles VerStraeten.

Eric mentioned that he had a resident interested in donating a collection of conservation books to the CAC, which could likely be housed in the town hall.

The CAC discussed the presence of dumpsites in town and the potential environmental concerns. It was determined that if the town board desired, the CAC could evaluate and weigh in with specific environmental concerns of illegal sites as identified by the code enforcement officer.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed commercial solar array on Old Stage Road near 156.

A trail improvement grant application was reviewed and discussed, as well as the proposed town park expansion.

Minutes from the June 2016 were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM. The next CAC meeting will be September 15th, 2016.