

**Town of Washington  
Conservation Advisory Commission  
Meeting of April 9, 2008**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Greenwood called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Frank Genova  
David Greenwood  
Walt Jacob  
Tim Marshall  
Brad Roeller  
Subcommittee member Howard Schuman

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 5, 2008 were approved as submitted.

**III. Correspondence**

- A promotional flyer for an April 11, 2008 workshop concentrating on the Dutchess County watershed(s). This workshop will be held at Norrie Point Environmental Center and is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, and Clearwater.
- The minutes for the March meetings of the Town of Washington Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.
- A promotional flyer for the Cary Institute's scientific seminar series featuring an April 11<sup>th</sup> appearance by Dr. John Holdren. Dr. Holdren's talk is entitled "The Environment and the Sustainability Challenge".

**IV. Old Business**

- Chairman Greenwood briefed the committee on the March 31<sup>st</sup> annual town board breakfast at the Dutchess Land Conservancy's Millbrook office. Russell Urban-Mead presented a talk entitled "Ground Water Quality and Availability, Emerging and Persistent Issues". David found the presentation timely, well-presented and informative. He noticed that many CAC, Town and Planning Board representatives were in attendance.
- Mr. Genova presented the Planning Board update to the committee. He thought the recent CAC/Planning Board site visit to Higher Ground Farm was very useful and demonstrated the excellent working relationship and respect the Planning Board has for the CAC. Mr. Roeller provided some background on this application as it had to achieve relief from local zoning from the ZBA. It appears that the environmental arguments presented by Mr. Roeller as part of the ZBA review, coupled with the consensus of the town officials who participated in the site visit convinced the Planning Board to ask the applicant to relocate the proposed driveway out of the woodlands and wetlands areas. Mr. Genova reported that the Millbrook

Winery has an application before the board to construct a warehouse facility on their property. Mr. Genova was of the opinion that this application was not of concern to the CAC. Mr. Genova also mentioned that a potential problem related to the new driveway constructed by Mr. Timothy Foxe creating runoff onto Dr. Schwartz's property will most likely involve a joint Planning Board/CAC site visit.

**V. New Business**

- Chairman Greenwood noted that the 2009 Bank calendar will feature farming in the Town. He requested that CAC members “put the word out” for pictures and stories surrounding farming in the community.
- Members Genova and Roeller provided an update on the wetland committee's work. Mr. Roeller provided new language for the ordinance to include vernal pools and small wetlands protection. Planning Board consultant Neil Wilson is working on revising some of the administrative and procedural problems in the current draft law. It is important to note that the Planning Board, and not the ZEO, will be making the determination as to whether wetlands are present with input from the CAC and, if needed, the Town wetlands specialist.
- Chairman Greenwood updated the committee about an initiative in the Village of Millbrook. He was approached to see if the Town CAC would be willing to act as an agent of the Village on environmental matters coming before the Village Planning and/or Village Board. It was the unanimous consensus of CAC members present that this was not a good idea as the Village has different needs, issues and concerns compared to the Town. It was also agreed that it would be to the Village's advantage to have their own CAC as an advisory body.
- Mr. Marshall asked for a clarification of what the CAC's involvement will be with the new DEC stormwater guidelines. Mr. Weller had a similar question at a previous meeting. It was the consensus of those present that our involvement would simply be to review the proposed draft and comment as needed. The draft will most likely be created by Town Planning Board advisors.
- Subcommittee member Schuman updated the committee on a local initiative to protect amphibians during the spring breeding “migration” from automobiles on local roads. Several individuals and organizations are brainstorming ideas and will begin field observations this spring to confirm likely areas derived from many mapped resources. Mr. Schuman inquired if the CAC would like to be involved in this initiative. The consensus of members present was “yes”.
- Chairman Greenwood briefed the committee on a presentation by Dr. Graham Blick who is studying the Antarctic icecap dissipation using GPS and GIS technology.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Recording Secretary, Bradley H. Roeller

