

Town of Washington Conservation Advisory Commission Millbrook NY

Minutes of December 7, 2022 6:01 pm, Town Hall

Quorum:

Present: Margaret Schneible, (Chair), Lisa Conger, Howard Schuman, Shannon LaDeau, Pam Scott, David Greenwood, Walt Jacob, Mike Herzog, Village Liaison

Absent: Elizabeth Mandy, Leslie Heaney, Town Liaison

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Margaret Schneible, (Chair)

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Margaret Schneible, (Chair)

Special Guest speaker, Michael Klemens: a renowned conservation biologist working at the inter-disciplinary interface between science, land-use decision making, and public policy was invited to give analysis, opinion and advice after reviewing the TOW Natural Resource Inventory. Mr. Kelemen's took the time to review the CAC climate smart community plan and efforts and offer suggestions on how to develop a "ecological footprint", He discussed how effects of the environment and where or where not, development and environment can survive together. Suggested avenues would be items such as: typical dispersal corridors – with lakes and streams; look at before, current & after bedrock, limestone, Greylock belts. Habitat types from the Hudsonian maps; identify rich diversity wetlands; all avenues to work in conjunction with our climate smart community. He offered examples of other communities currently with procedures in effect to research and possibly emulate and will continue suggestions and advice on a as need basis to the TOW CAC. Members were very grateful for his input and participation in our efforts.

Old Business:

Minutes: Margaret Schneible called to approve minutes from November 2, 2022 as corrected, she asked if there were any comments or questions, with a negative response Pam Scott motioned and Shannon LaDeau seconded. All approved, motion passed to approve the minutes of November 2, 2022 as amended.

New Business:

ZBA – White Rock Farm, lease variance, article 391.7 article. Reviewing the code and clarification may be needed. Otherwise, environmentally had appeared in compliance.

Planning Board:

DLC – Perkins Property, lighting dark sky issue, excellent presentation, willing to work with Town Codes on site plan submitted.

Uptown Lake High School, also working with Town on environment with wetland and lighting ordinances. TOW will be lead agency.

Questions: Pam Scott asked for clarification on Michael Klemens comments to the buffer requirement to wetlands that currently appear to have “loose wording”. CAC to work with Town Board on wording to be reviewed and defined.

Other:

Next Meeting: Schedule for Wednesday, January 4, 2023 6pm, Town Hall & Zoom

Adjournment: Margaret Schneible opened motion to close, David Greenwood moved and Lisa Conger seconded. Motion to approve to adjourn at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Conger
Recording Secretary