

Conservation Advisory Commission
Minutes of April 27, 2010 Meeting

Present: Stephen Appel, Curt Pueschel, Cynthia Stephens/Westerman, Shepard Bennett, Richard Pastore, Michael Restuccia, Linda Green

Two new members, Michael Restuccia (restuccia1@hotmail.com) and Linda Green (butterfly5@stny.rr.com), were welcomed and, after introductions, were given a capsule summary of the CAC's history, resources, goals, and interactions with other Town bodies. Linda has a conflict on the usual meeting night, and the possibility of changing the meeting time was discussed. Ed Hillenbrand is the keeper of the Board Room schedule and he will be asked about other times when the room is available.

The new members were informed of the CAC file cabinets in the Vestal Library. A copy of the contents will be distributed by e-mail. Recent reports and minutes should be added to the collection to bring it up to date.

The decision of the Town Board to market the gas rights under Jones Park was discussed. Although the drilling would not occur within the park boundaries, the park could be affected by noise, damaged roads near the park, and runoff of contaminated surface waters, as has happened at a Dimock, PA drill site.

Most of the focus on the environmental effects of gas drilling has been on the drilling sites, and little information has come forward about the network of pipelines that will be required to move the gas from the wells to the trunk line. The laying of the pipelines and building of compressor stations could also have significant environmental effects.

The County is taking the lead in providing road-use permits for overweight vehicles. A question was raised as to whether the Town will, in effect, be ceding to the county decision-making about use of Town roads by gas companies. Heavy damage to roads associated with drill sites near Montrose, PA has been reported by news media.

Cindy reported on additional items before the EMC. The car wash proposed to be built on the Vestal Parkway near Evergreen Street is again under consideration. Rezoning is required, and serious concerns about the effects of the business on Parkway traffic have been raised.

Pete Andreasen was displeased that there was no hearings held in Vestal on the revision of FEMA flood zone maps. Efforts are underway to have a presentation after the maps are finalized. In general, flood zones have been enlarged, so more people are in areas that require flood insurance for mortgage holders. The maps are available on the web (<http://broomegis.co.broome.ny.us/website/gisweb/mapcollection.htm?cnty17>)

Some filling has occurred in a wetland near the Stewart trailer park by Lowe's. Gary Campo has reported the activity to the Army Corps of Engineers, and they will inspect the site.

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition is reported to have entered an agreement with the Town to build wetlands in Jones Park. The CAC will pursue information on this initiative.

Steve Appel reported on items before the Planning Board. Approval was given for an Indian cultural center on a property on the corner of route 26 and Sheedy Road. The capacity of the center was approved for 126 people.