

Conservation Advisory Commission  
Minutes of November 17, 2010 Meeting

Present: Steve Appel, Curt Pueschel, Cynthia Stephens/Westerman, Linda Green, Shepard Bennett

Excused: Richard Pastore, Michael Restuccia

Minutes of the October 21, 2010 meeting were approved as corrected.

Copies of "Provisions for the Vestal Conservation Advisory Commission" were distributed and discussed. The document addresses filling unexpired terms, but it does not specify the length of the term. Members voiced a strong preference for two-year, staggered appointments because it assures continuity of experience on the commission.

A document prepared by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition describing EPA goals for total maximum daily loads in the New York region of the Susquehanna River ([http://www.tiogacountyny.com/pdfs/departments/soil\\_water/District\\_USC\\_FactSheet\\_Oct2010\\_Final.pdf](http://www.tiogacountyny.com/pdfs/departments/soil_water/District_USC_FactSheet_Oct2010_Final.pdf)) and the controversy surrounding the ambitious goals for our region were discussed.

Steve reported on discussions at the Planning Board meeting that addressed the extent to which the Town could impose regulations on natural gas development activities. The only control the town will have is over road use. All other actions, including site preparation, lighting and sound issues, and spills, are regulated by the DEC. The Town will have to work through the DEC if concerns arise. It was noted that a town in Pennsylvania vigorously enforced their local road ordinances, issuing over a thousand tickets to trucks in a three-day period for violations. According to news reports, three of every four trucks involved in drill-water hauling were cited for violations.

Cindy, our EMC representative, reported that the Broome County Legislature did not restore the position of Senior Environmental Planner. The occupant of this post also served as Director of the EMC. In the future, a senior planner will allocate just 10 hours per month to the EMC. Whether the EMC can be effective with this major reduction in staff time is a question. The Broome County Legislature voted against signing gas leases with Inflection Energy, but they passed an environmental impact statement negative declaration on gas drilling on county lands, even though no lease or site plan presently exists. A representative of the Broome County Health Department recommended that people have their well water tested before gas drilling begins in their area. The Department can provide assistance and advice but no testing services. Three commercial labs can provide testing services. On Dec. 10, the DEC will have an informational session in Cortland about the emerald ash borer. BU Biology professor, Julian Shepherd, has nearly completed a natural resources inventory of Broome County for the EMC. Cindy will obtain a copy of Vestal sites for our records.