

Conservation Advisory Commission
Minutes of January 20, 2011 Meeting

Present: Steve Appel, Curt Pueschel, Linda Green, Shepard Bennett, Richard Pastore, Michael Restuccia

Excused: Cynthia Stephens/Westerman

Minutes of the November 18, 2010 meeting were corrected and approved. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17.

Unfortunately, Pete Andreason was not able to accept the invitation to attend. Pete did indicate by e-mail that Dave Marnicki would in the future serve as CAC's contact with the Town Board. Mr. Marnicki was out of town and also unable to attend this meeting. To clarify the CAC's mission with the Supervisor, Members asked that a session with the Supervisor be worked out soon and expressed a willingness to meet at a time other than a regularly scheduled meeting, if that was necessary. Pete will be asked for two possible dates when he would be free to meet and CAC members could then decide which of those times would allow the greatest number to attend.

The Freedom of Information request for communications relevant to the proposed logging in Jones Park was discussed. CAC communications that will be disclosed include a few e-mails exchanged with Supervisor Pete Andreason, Town Attorney Dave Berger, and Park Supervisor Jim Bukowski. Also covered in the request are minutes that mention Jones Park and other related topics. The document containing an analysis of the threat from the emerald ash borer is also relevant. Curt and Dick will inventory these documents and provide them to the Town if they are not provided by the officials who received them.

In a recent Town Board meeting, Dave Marnicki stated that a committee should be formed to work with the forester recently contracted by the Town and a representative of the CAC should be involved. All agreed that, Curt, being a professional biologist, would be an appropriate person to represent the CAC.

Curt received a mailing from the Town that was sent at the behest of Dave Marnicki and it contained documents entitled, *Economic Benefits of Open Space Preservation*, *A Municipal Official's Guide to Forestry*, and *Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program*. Web links to these documents were conveyed to CAC members. Relevant to the last document, which is a DEC program, we were asked whether the CAC would be interested in applying for a tree inventory grant for this year (deadline Feb. 10) or in the future. The possibility of Vestal submitting a proposal for a Quick Start Arbor Day Grant or a Community Forestry Grant was discussed.