Conservation Advisory Commission

Minutes of the November 21, 2013 Meeting

Present: Curt Pueschel, Shep Bennett, Cynthia Stephens-Westerman, Linda Green, Michael Restuccia

Excused: Steve Appel, Victor Lamoureux, Cole Moore

Guest: Megan Larson

Minutes of the October 17th meeting had been approved by e-mail. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on December 19, 2013.

The Town Board has reappointed CAC members Bennett, Lamoureux, Stephens-Westerman, and Pueschel through 2015. We should redouble our efforts to find a candidate to fill the alternate-member seat that was vacated by Dick Pastore's resignation. Each of the members present signed a copy of the ethics forms required by the Town.

Cindy has decided that she can no longer continue as our representative to the Environmental Management Council. A volunteer would be welcome. The EMC meets at 4:30 on Wednesday afternoons every other month.

Curt introduced Megan Larson, a graduate student in Biology who works on wetland ecology. Megan is interested in the possibility of working with the CAC in some capacity. She is an alumna of Vestal High, but she is not currently a Town resident. We described for Megan the activities of the CAC, including our reports on the emerald ash borer, streams, and hydraulic fracturing and our on-going project to develop conservation management plans for the Town parks. We also discussed the possibility of providing public information about the impending tree mortality from the emerald ash borer and the hemlock wooly adelgid. Megan noted that the adelgid has been found in the University's Nature Preserve.