

Vestal Conservation Advisory Commission  
Minutes of the September 17, 2015 meeting

Present: Curt Pueschel, Steve Appel, Linda Green, Victor Lamoureux, Adam Flint

The May 2015 meeting was devoted to a trip to Vestal Center Park to gather information for a possible grant proposal to the Trees for Tribes Program. No meetings were held during June, July, and August. The next regular meeting of the CAC is scheduled for October 22, 2015. The access code to enter the Town Hall did not work and entry was obtained through the police.

Adam distributed a flier for a September 29<sup>th</sup> event at the State Office Building about Smart Energy Jobs.

The difficulty in having enough members available for a meeting limited CAC activities for the summer. Shep Bennett has been ill and has not responded to e-mails; his term last only to the end of the year. Curt will recommend Adam for appointment as a full member and our representative to the EMC. Currently, he holds an alternate member slot. Mike Restuccia has another year to run in his appointment, but his work schedule has prevented him from attending. We will inquire as to whether he is able to continue. Prospective members were discussed. Should Adam move to full status and Mike resign, we will need for one more regular member and two alternates.

The Town's website has been extensively revised, and members reviewed the CAC pages (<http://cms.revize.com/revize/vestal/departments/cac/index.php>). It was felt that the name of the Conservation Advisory Commission should be written in full in the listing of the departments, rather than just using initials. If that is not possible, perhaps the entry could be shortened to "Conservation Commission." Curt will submit a brief description of our mission for posting. Spot-checking of the posted past minutes and reports turned up no problems.

Victor will contact Jeremy Waddell of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) to learn if their planned buffer coordinator position has been filled. If so, we will seek their help in completing the Trees for Tribes grant proposal for Vestal Center and Richard Avenue Parks.

Concerns about the stability of Choconut Creek's course on the northwestern portion of the Vestal Center Park and adjacent properties were discussed. Aerial photos suggest that the Choconut may be prone to changing course in this area; such a change in the flow pattern would detach parts of these lots to the west of the stream.

Emerald Ash Borers have been found in DEC traps and the area is under quarantine, but the effects of infestation are not yet obvious. Recent findings in Ohio indicate that the EAB can attack the white fringe tree, which is another member of the ash family. The fringe tree is native to the US but not our area; however, it is planted locally as an ornamental.

Victor reported that chemical treatments of hemlocks to protect them from the hemlock woolly adelgid are available and affordable.

Steve commented on the demolition of some of the existing structures at the Binghamton-Johnson City sewage treatment plant in Vestal to make way for construction of new facilities. Until the plant is fully functional in 2018, waste will continue to receive little more than primary treatment and the discharge will continue to be an unpleasant brown soup.

Comments at the Town Board meeting regarding the continuing erosion of Fuller Hollow Creek were noted.