



TOWN OF WASHINGTON CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Millbrook, New York 12545

Minutes of May 8, 2024 6pm, Town Hall

Quorum: *Present:* Margaret Schneible (Chair), Pam Scott, Howard Schuman, Shannon LaDeau, David Greenwood, Leslie Heaney (Town Liaison) *Absent:* Lisa Conger, & Mike Herzog (Village Liaison).

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair Schneible

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Chair Schneible

Presentation by staff of the Housatonic Watershed Association (Claire Wegh and Julia Rogers)

- 29% of TOW area is in Ten Mile River Watershed. Ongoing focus of watershed activities in Dover around Well Brook, which has headwaters in TOW.
- Northeast, Amenia, and Dover have formally adopted the Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan.
- Follow the Forest Initiative seeks to protect and connect core forest lands from Hudson Highlands to Canada. HWA seeks assistance with ground-truthing connectivity sites. Information on website.
- In 2022, an amendment to the Highlands Conservation Act makes new towns eligible for inclusion in the 4-state program.

Minutes: Pam Scott called to approve as corrected minutes from March 6, 2024, so moved by Pam Scott, seconded by Howard Schuman, all approved.

Old Business:

- Approval of CAC letters to:
 - a. Planning Board regarding Mabbettsville Mixed Use ruling. Motion to approve draft made by Pam Scott, seconded by Howard Schuman, all approved.
 - b. TOW Board regarding draft Hospitality Overlay District. Motion to approve a revised draft made by Shannon LaDeau, seconded by Howard Schuman, all approved
- Planning Board Update:
PB letter submitted to TOW Board regarding draft code for Hospitality Overlay District discussed. CAC concerned with suggested changes to the draft that would (a) allow for enlarging the footprint of existing infrastructure for adaptive use inns, and (b) set the threshold for lighting above that recommended for dark sky compliance.

- NRI: A webpage is being updated to include the new TOW Natural Resources Inventory and links to additional resources. The official NRI Maps are available for reference in Town Hall for anyone to access.
- Climate Smart Communities: Town CSC chairs (Leslie and Margaret) will meet with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) staff members Anna Harrod-McGrew to submit CSC paperwork towards Bronze status, and with Natalie Thorpe to organize assistance implementing social media plans for sharing disaster preparedness materials.

New Business:

- Slow Mow Spring – participation evident within town and village
- Innisfree Community Day May 25th 4:30am - 5pm

Open/Public Comments: Adelaide Camillo inquired on the Hospitality Overlay how 40 rooms allowance was devised and would come into effect; Town Board Liaison Leslie Heaney explained that the reuse adaptation gives a property the possibility for rooms over the 20-room limit, but does not apply to a new build.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2024 6pm at Town Hall.

Adjournment: Pamela Scott so moved; Shannon LaDeau seconded. Motion approved to adjourn at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon LaDeau
temporary secretary