

**Town of Coeymans
Minutes -
Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) meeting
19 February 2019
Coeymans Town Hall - Main Community Meeting Room**



Present:

Sylvia Lawler (Chair) (SL)
Daniel Bosworth (DB)

Absent:

Michael McGuire (Vice-Chair) (MM)
Bryan Rowzee (Recording Secretary) (BR)
Joe Tracey (JT)

Also Present:

Phil Crandall, Supervisor, visited at end of meeting
Barbara Heinzen
Sara Pruiksmas
Mike Rizzo

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by SL.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve 01-19-2019 tabled due to lack of quorum

Topics

- Introduction to Mike Rizzo and Sara Pruiksmas moved to Hamlet two years ago.
- Updates from CAC members
- AOB

INTRODUCTION

Mike Rizzo and Sara Pruiksmas moved to the Hamlet two years ago after buying a house on Colvin Avenue. Sara is an artist and will be doing a project to document buildings in the Hamlet. She curates exhibits at the Albany Airport and works with May and Watkins design. She spoke about what she wants to do.

Sara Pruiksmas:

I am an artist. I want to help to raise awareness of the hamlet of Coeymans and its historical background. I also want to help to boost morale and engage with audiences in the town. Coeymans is largely overlooked, but there are a lot of beautiful assets in the community. I want

to pay attention to architectural details. John Bonafide helped register the Hamlet as an historic district on the National Historic Register & we have also had the work of the Kellogg grant which helped to keep the town in good standing, but more needs to be done.

I will be painting 15-20 of sites in the Hamlet that I have earmarked, not as perfect renditions, but as interpretations of them. A large part of my work until recently has been botanical, with botanical images standing in as figures. Thru the use of botanical images, I will be doing caricatures of the houses.

UPDATES

Dan Bosworth

There has been interest in a grant for recycling, which will be available after we do a successful hazardous waste recycling day.

SL: The town is planning a recycling day, including electronic waste, sometime this year.

B Heinzen

BH made a copy of the draft LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan) for the library.

SL: I also have a copy. There should be 3-4 boxes of material on the landfill and the LWRP in the library. These are all public documents that needed a review period. The LWRP was developed over 4 years with the New York Dept of State. We finished it at the end of Mr. Clark's tenure. He left it to the next Board to hold the public hearing, but new supervisor was told to drop it. The LWRP was not backed up by Ten Eyck Powell, our liaison with the state. He had sold his land to serve as the Albany landfill and the LWRP stood in his way of other plans he had then. I have also been on the phone of the realty section of DEC. They say the purchase of the City of Albany land is going ahead. It will be a wildlife management area.

About a week ago, BH heard that the Port of Coeymans's permit for Construction and demolition debris was up for renewal in March. She phoned Mr. Jonathan Whitcomb, of the solid waste management division of the DEC to ask them first to inspect what the Port has been doing with the material they brought in over recent years and to do so before the DEC renews their C&D licenses. She phoned Mr. Whitcomb because he had turned down Billy Biers's application for a Beneficial Use Permit to lay down over 4-5 years 800,000 cubic yards of concrete aggregate in order to level his property. In his letter, Mr. Whitcomb said that the proposal constituted disposal of waste rather than reuse, so the application was denied.

In the course of their conversation, they discussed BH's concerns (shared by others in town) that the port had been dumping restricted fill into the clay ravines of the Coeymans Creek in order to level the land for the construction of industrial buildings in the Coeymans Industrial

Park. She also mentioned worries that similar fill was being stored right next to the Hudson River. Whitcomb said that the regulations covering this type of fill had changed and that this use would now not be permitted. He said the DEC were also aware of a similar application to import concrete aggregate onto the Liotta property near the Binnenkill and the railway bridge. He said they were keeping a close eye on events in Coeymans, and would appreciate any information we send them.

BH also reported a talk by John Lipscomb from Riverkeeper at the New Baltimore Conservancy. He had suggested that this particular stretch of the Hudson River from Schodack down to Hoatelling Island was especially rare and needed protection. One idea he had was to form a coalition of the towns on both sides of the river to work for the protection of this stretch of the River.

SL suggested that a similar group is developing a Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan which involved a lot of stakeholders. Their website is: [The Hudson We Share](#). That has a list of the stakeholders involved. There is also a group known as the Friends of Schodack Island which support the state park.

Sylvia Lawler

SL attended to Conservation Advisory Council Round Table run by Ingrid Haeckel at the Colonie Public Library which was very good. This was after work, but would like to see one on a weekend.

More dates of useful training sessions:

April 30, Colonie Library, 5.30-7.30pm, Ingrid Haeckel will be giving a talk on using the new Hudson River Natural Resource Mapper.

Land Use training at Five Rivers, run by Pace Law Centre, on May 10, May 31 and June 14. Maureen Cunningham says it is outstanding.

April 7: Steve Smith & SL are organizing a concert at the Linda for Clearwater. All proceeds will go to Clearwater.

Feb 27: The Coeymans ZBA meeting will be considering [two applications](#) for a new building at the Coeymans Marina, said to be for a new restaurant. One application wants to reduce the required number of parking spaces, while the other wants the ZBA to approve building the new restaurant below the base flood elevation.

There was discussion of this application, noting that the new building would cut off views of the river from park and this is considered a scenic area of statewide significance. There are also

worries the restaurant would bring more ambient noise, light and cook orders into the Hamlet and would be built at a much bigger scale than existing buildings.

BH sent a message to Starr Ross about asking members of the Coeymans Neighborhood Association to attend the ZBA. SL said she would contact Tom Dolan, chair of the Neighborhood Association and she will also contact Matt Moraglio (sp?), at Department of State to see if these plans for a new Yannis restaurant violate the rules on a protected view shed to Hudson River.

AOB

NRI

BH read through the draft and sent her comments to Ingrid.

SL and Laura De Gaetano have been meeting to go over the draft. They have reviewed the whole document and made some revisions. Sylvia will meet with Ingrid on 6 March. The design and layout will work to make the NRI more accessible and will include illustrations, quotations and photographs.

SL said she would like to make a presentation to the Town Board after 6 March to approve the text, but leave the layout and design for after the Town Board presentation.

Phil Crandall, Town Supervisor, joined the meeting for a while and said the CAC could make a presentation whenever they are ready. "Then it goes out for public comment period. Then we adopt a resolution."

Culvert grant

SL wrote to Erin Moore about phase 2, a multi-municipal grant. Erin Moore is trying to set up a meeting with New Baltimore and Coeymans as both Towns missed making applications for phase 2 last year. Martin Daly may be able to help as a grant writer.

Naturalist club at high school

SL tried to get in touch with Matt Miller to see if such a club exists.

Revised Comp Plan

SL noted the meeting with Ravena and the Town of Coeymans to think about long term plans. The facilitator noted that Coeymans is not eligible for some grants because the zoning goes back to 1961. SL quoted advice from Meagan Phillip, at NY Department of State, that it might

be useful to revise Comp Plan, Zoning and LWRP all at the same time, and fold the NRI into the revised comp plan.

Next Meeting: 6:00 pm on Tuesday March 12 at the Coeymans Town Hall–Main Community Meeting Room (or other location as needed)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

- Minutes compiled by Barbara Heinzen, community member and reviewed by Bryan Rowzee (Recording Secretary)