



**TOWN OF
NORTH CASTLE
CONSERVATION
BOARD**

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**WORK SESSION
CONSERVATION BOARD
TOWN HALL ANNEX- CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022
7:30 P.M.**

Corrected

PRESENT: Craig Benedict; Jane Black, Co-Chair; George Drapeau III; John Krupa, Co-Chairman; José Berra, Town Board Liaison.

NOT PRESENT: Adam Barnett, Andy Block.

1. Oamic Ingredients – George Drapeau informed the Board that this applicant has applied to the Planning Board for a change in storing chemicals. This application was approved by the Conservation Board in 2017 to store Class 3 chemicals. The applicant has applied to store class 1 & 2 chemicals which are much more hazardous. Mr. Drapeau said that the Planning Board has requested more information on the types of chemicals that have been proposed. The Board agreed that the memo from our Board should be reviewed and the Armonk Fire Department should be contacted. Mr. Krupa expressed his deep concern about the dangerous chemicals that have been proposed for storage. Ms. Black said that the former Co-Chair, Zenaida Bongaarts spent many hours researching the science aspect of these chemicals and the types of chemicals they are proposing to store at the site are more hazardous. The Board discussed the site plan which had containment and other safety features. Ms. Black said that this Board should submit a memo that expresses the Board's deep concern about this project and the site itself. Mr. Drapeau said yes, and he didn't think the local Fire Department could handle this type of potential catastrophe. Mr. Berra said that the Board can send the memo to the Planning Board, Town Board and Kellard Sessions, and the Armonk Fire Department. Mr. Drapeau asked if the Armonk Police Department should be involved. Mr. Drapeau said that we have to prepare for the worst case scenario. Mr. Drapeau said he would forward the presentation made by Mr. Veneziano, Esq. to the Planning Board. The Board asked the Secretary to forward the memo submitted by the Board in 2017. A brief discussion took place regarding risk factors.

2. RPRC Reports – Ms. Black referred to the RPRC reports that she sent via e-mail to the Board. She referred to an application that will coming to the Board located in Bedford. Ms. Black said we should keep an eye on the Summit Club and changes being made to that site. She informed the Board that a project located on 84 Round Hill Road that was approved by the Board in 2020, has a violation on the site for work in the wetland buffer without a permit. Further discussion about this and other projects occurred.

3. Tree Ordinance memo to the Planning Board - George Drapeau and Craig Benedict worked together on the verbiage for a memo about trees that will be submitted to the Planning Board. Mr. Drapeau said that he thinks it would be beneficial to reconstitute a 5 to 7 member tree board or commission. Ms. Black said that the process wasn't efficient in the past and asked how we could make this work. Mr. Drapeau said this works well in other communities such as Sleepy Hollow or New Castle. He said that this works very effectively in other towns such as Mount Pleasant. Mr. Drapeau listed membership roles from other towns. Ms. Black said that the tree officer would be the person that would be added to the town budget. He said that there is a commitment by other towns to achieve the protection of trees. Ms. Black said that RPRC can make a referral to the tree board as they do for this Board. She added that the tree board needs to be revised to include private and public property. Mr. Krupa said that the tree codes should be presented to the tree removal companies. Mr. Drapeau said that other towns have tree protections in place, such as New Castle's protection laws. Ms. Black said that the portion written about penalties in other towns is great and this could be used in the memo. She added that tiering of trees on certain lot sizes needs to be addressed. Ms. Black cited different examples on the premise about tiering. Mr. Drapeau said if a tree board is reconstituted this whole process will flow easily. Mr. Krupa said that the RPRC has been constituted to fast track the process. Discussion ensued on the merits of trees including shade and erosion. The Board discussed the addition of mitigating trees for any proposed tree removals. The process of "in lieu of" or a tree fund for any applications that cannot provide mitigation on sites was discussed. The Board discussed the budgetary concern regarding the hiring of an arborist. Ms. Black said that RPRC could provide the screening process that could refer an applicant to a tree board. Mr. Krupa thanked Mr. Drapeau for all of his hard work.

4. End of Year Report - John Krupa compiled a draft of an end of year report which includes the years 2020 and 2021, to be submitted to the Town Board.

This report has not been submitted for many years and the Board was in favor of reconstituting this report going forward. Mr. Berra said that the report can be presented to the Town Board by using a short power point presentation. Aspects of the report were discussed. Ms. Black read aloud portions of the report. Mr. Krupa wanted it noted that he felt this report was important so that future generations can see what has been reviewed by the Conservation Board.

5. See Something/Say Something – The Mariani property was briefly discussed. The Board asked Mr. Berra if there are new plans for the property. Mr. Berra said no, not at this juncture.

6. Planning Board & RPRC meetings for 2022 – The Board signed up for monthly meetings for the 2022 year for the Planning Board and Residential Project Review Committee (RPRC).

The work session was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Julie Mucker, Secretary
Conservation Board

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