

Minutes of the Town of Perinton
Conservation Board Meeting of

November 18, 2014

Present:

Ken Rainis, Chairman
John Minichiello
Dave Belaskas
Jerry Leone
Andy Rodman
Bob Place, Town Attorney
Rob Kozarits
Mike Doser
Joan Cannon, Secretary

Absent:

Chris Fredette
Barb Wagner

Others Present:

Perry Stolt, Animal Control
Stacey Estrich, Parks Department,
Discussion on Hunting Regulations
Bob Holmes, Easement
Jeff Richards, Luann Myer, Nicole
Fornoff, Waste Management.

Bob Holmes – Easement -2334 Turk Hill Road – Farming Easement for Christmas tree farm. Andy stated that he met with Bob Holmes and toured the property and it is clear that it is being used as a tree farm. Both hard woods and Christmas trees are growing and have been replanted. Business has dropped off but they are making efforts to reforest it. A relative may be interested in using some of the area as a horse farm and they asked if that would have an impact on the easement. Ken indicated that as long as the property is engaged in an agricultural purpose, it is considered a farming easement. Mr. Holmes stated it is their intent to continue to run it as they have been. Seedlings have been ordered and they will be planted in April. The Board approved the 15 year easement.

Waste Management – Annual Meeting to discuss High Acres Landfill & Recycling Center 2013-2014 Report. Jeff Richards stated they haven't started Phase III as yet but we continue to work on the 33 conditions that the various Boards had with their approval. Phase III is a combination of 95% of land in the Town of Macedon and about 5% in Perinton (the wedge). The wedge is from the Town/County line on the 3:1 slope that lays back. With regard to the 2013-2014 update that was submitted this year, it is intended to be a supplement to be put into the original three ring-binder from 2009. Out of the original 33 conditions, 19 have been completed and addressed. Fourteen fall in the "on-going" category and eight of the fourteen are specific to a landscape plan.

Ken asked about dates in terms of closure, and Jeff replied that the agreement with the DEC is that we don't have to place final cover until final elevations are reached and completely built out. We don't have to place that cover unless there are leachate outbreaks, odors and other things that demand it. There is settlement on an annual basis and we are able to fill the side slopes of the landfill. The regs require 3:1 and we fill that at 2.8:1 knowing that they are going to settle. We continue to see settling all throughout the western expansion. With the entire western expansion and portions of Phase I and II as part of the mass excavation of the cells, we placed 3'-4' of soil on the outside slopes to help prevent leachate outbreak, odors, and gas collection. Then we added top soil and seeded it. If there are no problems, we can go back and recapture that air space year after year. There is only one closed area and that's where we are able to install permanent features. On the western expansion in particular, we have placed 3'-4' of cover and allowed the trees to take off and grow. If he had to estimate how long before it is finished, he would say at least 10 years and perhaps longer. Ken asked about Macedon and Jeff stated that the plan calls for the first cell to be constructed in 2016. We would be doing the wedge in Perinton at the same time.

Jeff stated that with the rail it is important to stress what is not changing. The only thing that changes is the delivery method. Permanent capacity did not increase, the types of materials accepted is the same and the service area didn't change. The only thing that has changed is how it gets here. High Acres permitted capacity is 3,500 tons a day and has been for years. Multiply that times 307 operating days, the total is one million seventy six thousand tons per year that they can accept. Between 2005 and 2007 and the decline in the economy we were at 90% of permitted capacity. We now run about half of that or 500,000 tons. Rail will put us back in the 800,000 ton range.

In Macedon there will be more flare capacity than Perinton. New York State regs have changed and we can't do any more in Perinton. John asked about a food composting area and Jeff stated they did a pilot project with the State and the U of R. The U of R has their cafeteria set up so that everything is separated (fiber, plastic silverware, organics etc.) Unfortunately, when the loads come in, at least 1/3 of them has everything altogether and goes into the landfill. Unless someone watches the students, they just toss it and don't separate it. It has expanded over the past couple of years and Nazareth and Fisher are now a part of the pilot program.

Luann stated the landscaping is an on-going process and is flexible so that it can be adjusted. We have learned that the natural plantings are doing the best. Ken asked that in the future, they would like High Acres to identify the natural species and their location together with an indexing to show how you can predict how other plants will grow. He felt that in going forward, instead of just taking photographs, indexing the areas with photographs will provide much more data. Rob asked how much of the landscaping will be affected if they go back to work on the cells. Jeff replied that the original area would not be affected. Once the rest of the air space is used, we will implement the landscaping. This will not happen all at once but in a permanent phased approach. The longer you let it settle, it will give us more air space.

Acoustical Monitoring - Luann indicated that this year they went on site and off site and obtained the same typical, historical readings and generally are below requirements for a suburban environment.

Vehicle Storage – There is not a lot happening at the western expansion and very little equipment. At the lower elevation where work is being conducted there may be some equipment. We endeavor to move them more towards the center so they can't be seen.

Post Closure Bond – Every year we submit to the DEC a bond and as of last year it was updated and approved for over 23 million dollars.

Landfill Gas Management – This past year we installed three horizontal collectors in Cell 10, 16 vertical landfill gas extraction wells and 14 of those had watering pumps added to them. Cell 10 is where we had the problems and learned that we had to decrease the spacing. With Cell 11, we added a grid system of collection pipes. A number of other features were added specific to landfill gas management. Jeff stated that they have a long term contract with the County, and at our expense, we've moved four loads a day out of High Acres and being sent to Chaffee. Two loads are going from northwest quads and two from Van Lare.

Wetland Mitigation – All three areas that were proposed for wetland mitigation have been constructed and being monitored. They are developing into a wetland system in an on-going process. There will be some modifications to make sure the hydrology is correct and that the type of wetland we are creating is what we proposed.

High Acres Nature Area (HANA) – The area was purchased in 1989 as a mitigation area and is under a conservation easement. In 2006, we applied for certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council which is an international accreditor of programs that preserve land for wildlife on corporate land. In 2009, a volunteer committee was formed and in 2011 we began partnering with RIT. Today, we have four miles of hiking trails throughout the site that we maintain for the public to enjoy. There is a diversity of eco-systems – wetlands, woodlands and all sorts of habitat. It takes quite a bit of maintenance performed by Waste Management staff and Crescent Trail volunteers. We also partnered with the Boy Scouts who built some bridges and infrastructure. The HANA volunteers are a critical part of the site. We all have goals that are environmental and we are striving to help the eco-system and working to increase the amount of habitat for wildlife. We partner with RIT and have many student interns and they have presented their findings at Imagine RIT. The past four years over the summer, we've had graduate and under graduate students interning from the Environmental Science Department. The majority of them are helping with wetland restoration and monitoring. One of them is devoted to avian bird studies each year. Those studies are led by Dr. John Waud who is the co-founder of the Environmental Science Program at RIT and a certified bird-bander at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Each year, he is there guiding students through their research. They take measurements of the birds and recording all information together with banding them if they haven't already been banded. That's how we know how many birds and different species are on the site. We know how many are coming through when they are migrating, which ones are returning or first time they have been there. The HANA organization has interacted with us as it is more long term when we look at the overall landscape plan of developing the hedgerow/meadow field. Because of the nesting seasons, rotational mowing is done at the direction of HANA. The interns are involved with on-the-ground efforts such as pulling cattails, research on biological methods using different types of beetles to control purple loosestrife and different types of invasive species. Dave Schaeffer is also a volunteer with HANA and brings in

Eagle Scout candidates who construct different types of infrastructure or doing different projects on site.

We are certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council which is a world-wide organization. There are 12 countries around the world where they have programs. There are 45 states in the U.S. who have programs. They have two different programs: Wildlife at Work with over 650 programs is one and Corporate Lands for Learning are a step above that and requires more engagement and some type of involvement with education. They have about 140 of those programs. In 2006 Waste Management was the first to receive the President's Award. As of 2014, we have 28,000 protected acres for wildlife habitat and 134 sites. This year, HANA recertified for the Wildlife at Work program and the application was compiled by a volunteer based on all the data submitted from the various projects. Over the past eight years, High Acres has received several awards thanks to all the volunteers.

Ken asked Nicole about any outreach plans such as the social media informing the public of the trails. She indicated not so much social media as the public using the Crescent Trail and Wegman's passport trail program. Ken stated he would like a commitment from Waste Management this year to promote information provided by RIT and others by making it available to the public on either the Town web site or Waste Management's web site. He would also like them to take a census to see how many people are utilizing this resource. Perhaps HANA has an idea as to how the landfill areas can be integrated into this other resource over time.

Dave asked about the 22 residents that contacted Waste Management about odors. Luann stated the numbers have dropped from 47 to 27 to 22 over the past three years. Cell 10 was an issue but it has been addressed. When gas wells are being installed there will be odors. When construction is being done there may be an odor.

Ken asked about noise and permitted levels. Jeff indicated noise is basically back-up alarms and tracks. We try and mitigate the noise levels. Also, we have talked to all of the 22 people who complained about the odors.

Ken asked about the railroad and Jeff replied that it will not be operational until about June. Bob asked if there were time constraints and Jeff said "yes" they are part of the DEC permit. They will not be coming in the middle of the night. A train will come in and it will either be put off in Rochester or Lyons. CSX on a daily basis delivers four trains back into Wayne County to various industries. They will just add us to that routine. There is a train going by every 18 minutes. The siding we constructed can take up to 40 cars. The off-loading area can process 10 at a time. Everything that comes through the transfer station goes through a screening process and loaded into sealed containers. It used to be loaded into trailers with an open top. It is inspected again at our operation. Contractually, we have to start taking volume by June 27, 2014.

2014 Hunting Permit Regulations – Pilot Program. Stacey stated that she, Perry Stolt, Jeff Myers, Tom Beck and Mike Barker put together a policy which currently is a Pilot Program. It is not an actual policy that is set in place for the Town of Perinton. The Town Board was presented a proposal and they accepted the idea starting September 1st through December 16th as

a hunting program for the various portions of the Town. The Town wanted to go forth with a wildlife management program. We have the highest deer population rate in Monroe County. We are above the towns of Mendon and Irondequoit. That information is gathered from what Perry collects, what DPW picks up off the road, all the car accidents, nuisance phone calls, etc. Perry said they have picked up over 140 dead deer on the side of the road for the year. Ken asked if there were other towns in the county with this type of policy and Stacey said they have been basically working with Irondequoit and Webster. The Perinton regulations are mimicked off of Webster's, which is mimicked off of the DEC deer application and management program. Perry has talked with Art, a wildlife biologist from the DEC which furnished much of the structure to our program. Hunting has been done on Town land but unofficially or on privately owned land with the owner's permission. Stacey said that you have to be a Town resident, meet all the DEC requirements regarding permits, meet with a staff member and obtain a map. Signs are posted in all areas to alert any park user, trail rider etc., that it is a shared use section. We have had feedback from the hunters and we have their cell numbers, their license plate number and E-Mail address. They communicate with us with what is going on in the woods which is information we never had. Wildlife numbers are coming back to us and this just started November 1st. Ken asked about "duck hunting" and Stacey said there are only four permits and two have been taken for the season. Jerry asked about notifying adjoining homeowners and Stacey said they have posted all the signs and did a presentation at the Town Board meeting. Letters have not gone out mainly because this is a pilot program and is not a set policy. Andy felt that neighbors should be warned because injured deer run through neighborhoods with arrows in them. Stacy agreed and that it is a big concern of theirs as it has been happening without their knowledge. Now they actually know the hunters and who is in what area and they have to report their harvest to us. Yesterday, we picked up a nine-point buck in Spring Lake Park taken down by an arrow and no one claimed it. Andy said the point is that the Town is changing the use of an area that people should be aware of. Perry replied that they do agree with that statement because technically we are changing it because we are allowing them in there now. Many of these properties have surrounding property that has enough space for hunters. Stacey said that notification will go out to the residents once the policy is defined. We are looking to improve it and collect data, take phone calls from residents and try to listen to everyone. We are meeting with Homeowners Associations and talking to farmers. Each area is tweaking itself based on its land use and the community that surrounds it. The letters will be in line with those sections of town.

Ken asked about the DEC and their comments on the population of wildlife. Perry stated that ADA is the regular wildlife management unit that Perinton is in. Art from the DEC said specifically that there is such an overpopulation of deer in the 8F management unit in residential areas that they may open up an earlier season date. Art suggested that we compile the statistics this year; deer being harvested; number and types of complaints; number of car accidents etc. Ken said managing the land and resources is the towns concern and hoped that there is a plan with the DEC that will control the effect of it over time.

Ken asked about the rifle size being no larger than .223 for coyote and fox hunting. Perry said that if we can get hunters in to hunt coyotes in a safe and regulated way it would be much better. Stacy indicated that the deer permit allows the hunter to pick two sites but next year it could be just one site which will allow more hunters to come in. There is more open space that we could

open up but right now it is just the areas that are large with nuisance issues. Stacey said the requirements are that they provide proof of having had the hunter's safety course, license and everything is scanned and we keep track of it. We also interview the resident.

Stacey said that there are eight approved hunters in White Brook north for that acreage. They share contact information among themselves, are self policing and are sharing information with the Town. They have to tag their tree stands with a hunter's ID; they will get a Town of Perinton laminated permit that shows where they can hunt, what they can hunt and the date with my signature on it. There is a venison donation program that is planned but has not been finalized. Currently, trapping is not allowed and Perry did not think it would be in the future.

To sum it up, Ken felt that this policy was created to bring some order from a chaotic situation. Also, the long term goal is to work with the DEC to facilitate wildlife management by opening up town owned lands for hunting; the goal being managing the population of animals. The Board would be interested in updates and data and felt they could lend their support to the program. Stacy said a future long term goal is to offer hunting courses for youths and adults.

Discussions:

The Conservation Board minutes of 11-4-14 were approved as corrected.

Planning Board Meeting 11-19-14. Meeting was for Planning Board discussion only, no agenda.

Easements: Holmes – 2334 Turk Hill Road – (see above) Andy Rodman – Returned Eagle Vale – Returned –

All easements have been returned to the Assessor's office.

Planning Board Meeting – 12-3-14 – Dave Belaskas and Jerry Leone to attend.

Cottages at Woodcliff - requesting concept subdivision approval under Section 278 of Town Law for 27 single-family residential homes on 8.48 acres. Jerry attended the site committee meeting. They received concept approval in 1985 and the preliminary approval then was for 426 units. There will be a Homeowners Association and open space of three acres in the middle of the property.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Cannon, Secretary