

VILLAGE OF OSSINING ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT for YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017
[Continuing Through July 6, 2018]

Council Members:

Jeff Smith, Chair
Ashoke Rajdev
Gary Hickernell
Leilani Dooley
Anthony Bustamante
Kendra Rossney
Erika Boetsch

Rika Levin, Trustee Liaison
Jaimie Kane, Planning Department
Stuart Kahan, Counsel

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

From 2010 to 2017, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) received the resignations of several members: Dorian Burden (former chair), Chris Copeland, Gareth Hougham, John Mingle, Bob Minzesheimer, Jeff Saper, and Joyce Lannert.

By January 2017 only Jeff Smith and newly appointed Ashoke Rajdev and Gary Hickernell were members. Counsel Kahan advised the EAC, which then consisted of 9 potential members with a quorum of 5 members, that it lacked a quorum to conduct business at some point prior to 2017. Thus, until early 2018 meetings were rarely held since no official business could be conducted. Somewhere along that line, Jeff Smith was appointed chair.

Starting in 2017 and into 2018 the Board of Trustees reduced the size of the EAC to 7 members, requiring a quorum of 4 members, and appointed new members Leilani Dooley, Anthony Bustamante, Kendra Rossney, and Erika Boetsch to bring the council to a full roster. Rika Levin was also appointed as the Trustee Liaison.

Since then, meetings have generally been held the first Tuesday evening of each month. The EAC relied heavily on Lynn Brooks Avni, the Village Planner, for agenda and organizational help until her resignation. Since then, Mr. Kahan and Jaimie Kane have provided agenda organization.

NETWORKING AND TRAINING

Members of the EAC represented the group at a number of meetings and participated in variety of networking and training events. With Counsel Kahan's assistance, records of the newly established continuing educational requirements are being established.

COLLABORATION WITH TOWN OF OSSINING EAC

Throughout the period from 2010 to this year's Village Fair, including when there was no quorum, the EAC and the Town of Ossining EAC continued collaboration on a joint EAC Booth at the Village Fair in each June. The consensus is that the collaboration is successful and the booth provides an outlet for environmental education and awareness.

CONSIDERATION OF A VILLAGE OPEN SPACE INVENTORY AND OTHER PROJECTS

In the spring of 2018, the EAC revived the long discussed goal of creating a Village Open Space inventory. Anthony Bustamante and Leilani Dooley have agreed to take the initial steps of reviewing similar projects in the county and elsewhere and have been in contact with Susie Ross, of Green Ossining, who created such an inventory for the Town outside the Village and has graciously offered her advice to our project. The council agreed to zero in on what the scope of work would be and to get cost estimates.

Another project, considering recommendation of a Green Code to the Board of Trustees, has had early discussion, but no planed activity as of yet.

The Council has also had a presentation regarding the nearby expansion of Sunshine Children's Home and Rehabilitation Center on Spring Valley Road and plans a letter of recommendation to the Board of Trustees regarding its environmental concerns, recognizing that the project is outside the Village's jurisdiction.

REVIEWING DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

The EAC's chief responsibility is reviewing development plans and draft environmental impact statements for consistency with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program developed by the Village and approved by state and federal agencies covering the area between Highland Avenue (Route 9) and the Hudson River.

The EAC has three times reviewed plans for the expansion of the Victoria Home on North Malcolm Street. The EAC originally found the Victoria Home expansion plans consistent with the LWRP in 2016. In late 2017 the EAC found the reduced expansion plans, driven by state health department bed limitations, to also be consistent with the LWRP. We have now reviewed a revised plan driven by cost concerns and expect to send our recommendation to the Planning Board this month after receiving some additional documents from the applicant regarding plantings.

The EAC has also reviewed the amendment to the renovation plans for the gas station/mini-mart at 185 North Highland Ave. and made fairly extensive recommendations to the Planning Board of what should be required with respect to steep slopes, storm water run-off, and

plantings, inter alia, to ensure consistency with the LWRP. The EAC was not at quorum level when that project was originally reviewed by the Planning Board.

Finally, the EAC has reviewed the most recent plans for Hidden Cove on a planned private road extension north of North Water Street. It is a very complex development plan that has not been reviewed by the EAC in recent years and the EAC has requested that the Planning Board extend the time for LWRP recommendations to be filed.

Jeff Smith, Chair July 10, 2018