

MINUTES OF A MEETING AS HELD BY THE  
TOWN OF AURORA PLANNING & CONSERVATION BOARD

February 8, 2018

Members Present: Donald Owens, Chairman  
Timothy Bailey  
Douglas Crow  
Laurie Kutina  
David Librock  
Norm Merriman  
Jerry Thompson

Alternate Member: Alice Brown

Absent/ Excused: Richard Glover

Also Present: 1 Member of the public

Chairman Don Owens presided over the meeting which began at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY. He led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Doug Crow made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2017 meeting. Seconded by Norm Merriman. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Don Owens thanked everyone for coming to the organizational meeting. He noted that Jerry Thompson is now a full member of the board. Don also welcomed Alice Brown who is the new alternate member and introductions were made.

Don Owens stated that one reason for the meeting is that he received an email from Buffalo State which indicated they are interested in documenting Japanese knotweed in the town. He noted that Japanese knotweed is an aggressive plant and it can be found on both branches of Cazenovia Creek. Once established, Japanese knotweed prohibits anything else from growing.

Dave Librock asked if stilt grass is the official name for Japanese knotweed.

Don Owens noted that he hadn't heard that name before but thought it was knotweed. He further indicated would ask Buffalo State to keep the Planning & Conservation Board informed about their findings.

Don Owens stated that Japanese knotweed likes well drained soils and can be found on road shoulders.

Dave Librock indicated he has noticed it in the village and it isn't near water. He further mentioned that there are about 2 acres of knotweed behind Masterton's on Olean.

Don Owens noted that once it gets into waterways, it spreads very easily. And hopefully Buffalo State can make some recommendations regarding controlling part of it in some ways.

Tim Bailey asked how long it's been around.

Don Owens noted that it has been around for a while but that it was mostly found to the south. Once it found its way into the drainage ways, it quickly spread to our area.

Norm Merriman asked about hog weed.

Don Owens noted that hog weed is a different plant and it is poisonous.

Jerry Thompson noted that he searched online for Japanese knotweed and stilt grass and noted that they look different.

Don Owens indicated he would ask Buffalo State to come out and discuss it.

Jerry Thompson discussed concerns regarding recommendations being made to the Town Board. He suggested a meeting with the Town Supervisor.

Laurie Kutina suggested inviting the Town Board to a meeting to discuss concerns.

Dave Librock asked about having preliminary meetings with potential developers.

Doug Crow noted that this would make the process more efficient, if the Town Board is willing to take the Planning Board recommendations rather than asking the same questions and coming to a different conclusion. He noted that it would be helpful to know how the Planning Board can be useful for the Town Board.

Laurie Kutina noted that even though the ordinances have changed, the Town Board has previously asked the advice of the Planning Board.

Doug Crow mentioned that the Planning Board recommended sidewalks on both sides of the street for the Reed Hill subdivision but the Town Board changed it to only one side and upon completion of the construction of a house. He indicated that he would like feedback on why the change from the recommendation, so that the Planning Board can be more useful to the Town Board.

Members discussed training requirements.

Tim Bailey asked for business cards for members to hand out to property owners when visiting a site prior to a meeting.

Public Comments:

Tony Rosati, 350 Oakwood Ave asked if the Planning Board has done any investigation regarding Tannery Brook, specifically regarding flood control or holding pond areas regarding Rte 400 and 20A.

Don Owens noted that there hasn't been any Town investigation into Tannery Brook. He further indicated that it becomes a developer's concern if a proposed subdivision is going to impact an area like that. He stated that Tannery Brook is a challenging watershed because of the steep slopes to the east that then nearly level off in the village causing bedload and debris to drop.

Members discussed issues within the Village regarding Tannery Brook, property ownership and the potential for DEC/Army Corps/Erie County Soil & Water Conservation Department (ECSWD) involvement. Consideration of the entire watershed must be given, instead of solving one particular problem.

Don Owens suggested inviting the ECSWD, Army Corps, the DEC, and Village Board members to a meeting to discuss these concerns.

A motion was made by Dave Libroek and seconded by Norm Merriman to adjourn at 8:00PM.

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY March 7, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 300 GLEED AVENUE, EAST AURORA, NEW YORK**