

TOWN OF CANANDAIGUA

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION BOARD

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose: Town Code (Chapter 18-6) and New York State General Municipal Law (GMU Article 12F Section 239-X Paragraph 1 Subparagraph f) both require that the Environmental Conservation Board (ECB) submit to the Town Board a year end annual report on the work and activities of the ECB. The State law additionally requires that the Town Board forward a copy of the annual report to the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

Open Space Preservation: On November 2nd, the NYS Department of Agricultural and Markets announced the award of a Farmland Implementation Grant (PDR) to Brock Acres through Finger Lakes Trust and the Town of Canandaigua. This PDR award will permanently protect 726 acres of mostly crop farm with approximately 31% prime soils and 40% soils of statewide importance. Since 2014 1,322 acres of farmland have now been awarded/protected PDR status in the Padelford Brook Greenway of the Town of Canandaigua. In total, 1,539 acres of farmland is in the PDR Program of the 14,670 acres in the Town Canandaigua that is actively farmed, An additional 4,550 acres is identified as old field or shrubland that may be suitable for farming.

The Town of Canandaigua was selected as a pilot study by BFJ Planning through a NYSERDA grant to participate in a review of the benefits of a TDR program in preserving pivotal tracts of farmland and other environmentally sensitive open space from development. This Trading of Development Rights Program could substantially assist the Town in protecting natural resources now endangered by development. A concept plan is being reviewed by the Citizens Implementation Committee and BFJ Planning and foresees a proposal offered to the Town of Canandaigua Town Board in the early part of 2017. The ECB continues to support PDR and TDR Programs.

Open Space Index: The ECB is charged with maintaining an up to date inventory and map of lands of conservation interest in the Town. The index was mapped with environmentally significant features in 2011 as the Natural Resources Inventory. In 2016 the ECB made no changes to the Open Space portion of the Natural Resources Inventory.

Open Space Index Referrals: In 2016 dozens of applications for development in locations of potential environmental significance were referred to the ECB for review. The ECB provided comments to the Planning Board and Zoning Board related to mitigating potential negative impacts.

Natural Resources Inventory: In 2016 several representatives from the ECB served on the Town's Comprehensive Plan Citizens Implementation Committee (CIC) and the Natural Resources Inventory subcommittee. The Natural Resources Inventory Team (NRI Team) has worked diligently during the year to develop drafts of a Steep Slope Law and Ridgeline/Viewshed Law. The steep slope draft has been presented for review to the CIC, the Planning Board, and the ECB. The Town's engineer is now reviewing the draft and a Joint Meeting of the Boards on Nov. 29th has been planned to assess its impacts in real application scenarios. It is expected that the final draft of the Steep Slope Law will be offered to the Town Board in the early months of 2017.

The NRI Team has also been working on a ridgeline/viewshed draft law. The NRI Team has made concerted effort to study the impacts of protecting these natural resources. Through field trip and

mapping exercises the NRI Team is nearing completion of its work and will be presenting a draft to the CIC and at a Joint Meeting of the Boards for their feedback in early 2017.

Public Education: The ECB continues its dedication to informing our residents of the environmental issues facing the Town. In 2016 the ECB partnered with the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association in two invasive species workshops for the general public: the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and a demonstration program on Aquatic Invasive Species Near the Shoreline at the Town's Onanda Park on Canandaigua Lake. Both programs were well received and will again be offered in 2017. The ECB realizes the importance of a continued educational effort in regard to the invasive species dilemma.

Because of the high temperatures and an unusually dry start to the summer, a Water Conservation Advisory was issued by our Water Superintendent. In response to this advisory, an ECB member prepared a list of comprehensive water conservation tips. This 'Tips' sheet was provided to residents in the new Town of Canandaigua Newsletter and also appeared on the Town's website and Facebook page. The ECB continues to bring environmental news and information in the Town via these outlets.

Members of the ECB attended a public information meeting hosted by the Finger Lakes Land Trust in a discussion of conservation tools available to private landowners. This discussion was in preparation to assist the Conservation Easement Team, a subcommittee of the CIC, in their efforts in public outreach to interested landowners in the benefits of conservation easements to them and the Town. The ECB and Conservation Easement Team have discussed a public workshop to address the topic in 2017.

Public education and education of the ECB go hand in hand. All members of the ECB have fulfilled their yearly education requirements as prescribed in the Environmental Conservation Board Rules of Procedure.

Proposed ECB Projects for 2017: The following projects are being considered by the ECB and will be submitted to the Town Board for their approval in January 2017.

- Continue to develop environment related public education opportunities for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Oak Wilt.

- Partner with the Conservation Easement Team to present a workshop to identify and encourage private landowners in conservation easement options.

- Continue to work with the CIC and the NRI Team to strengthen Town Code for the protection of natural resources.

- Strengthen the relationships with other agencies/organizations with similar missions.

- Implement the directives of the MS4, Minimum Control Measure (MCM)#1 and MCM #3.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Marthaller, Chairperson – on behalf of the Environmental Conservation Board
December 1, 2016