

**Conservation Advisory Council
Town of Amenia
May 20, 2015**

Attendees:

Dave Reagon (Chairman)
Vicki Doyle (Town Board liaison)
Mark Doyle
Michael Peek

Agenda:

1. Silo Ridge vs Comp Plan
2. South Amenia Cell Tower
3. Natural Resource Inventory
4. Then and Now
5. Science Break
6. Trail to the Train
7. Wastewater and Wishful Thinking

South Amenia Cell Tower

The balloon test was recently completed. Balloons were clearly visible in the area. The MTA is also planning a tower at Wassaic Station to improve their communications internally. There will be a public meeting held soon, and they will most likely be looking for co-locators...

Then and Now

Gretchen plans to use the photos on the town website.

Trail to the Train

Per Victoria Perotti, the project is on track. Comments have been received from NYS DOT. There are concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the station. Pedestrian crossing will need to be coordinated with the traffic lights. Work with the MTA and ROW's is done.

Commercial Composting Facility

Anthony Bulfamante (owner of A. Bulfamante Landscaping in New Rochelle, NY) and Anthony Maggio (his neighbor and lawyer) presented their plans for a commercial composting facility to be located at 3501 Route 22 in Amenia. The property is located West of Route 22, between Tinkertown Rd and Butts Hollow Rd.

Mr. Bulfamante has owned this property, along with a partner, since 2008. Now he is the sole owner. They bought an old tree farm with the intention of continuing this use. After losing a significant number of trees, they found the property not to be conducive to this use -- due to extensive damage from deer and not having the proper soil.

They're now interested in operating a commercial composting facility on the site. They've already had a site visit from DEC officials out of New Paltz. Inputs would be per DEC's 360 regs -- grass clippings, brush, wood, mostly yard waste. All materials would be manifested and regulated by DEC. They'd like to have the facility up and running in 6 months, with bagging of materials off-site.

They met with the ZBA, who suggested a legislative remedy, and were subsequently referred to us by Victoria Perotti. They'll be presenting to the Town Board tomorrow night.

Obtaining a Special Use Permit will require SEQRA. A legislative approach would circumvent this process, but require a significant amount of time and money. Is there any leeway in the fact that this land was previously owned and operated as a nursery? Could composting be allowed as an exception for nurseries?

TOA Code allows for on-farm composting of materials, but otherwise expressly prohibits solid waste management facilities and composting. After some discussion, it was decided that we refer this matter to Joel Russell and ask for his suggestion as to the best approach...

Wastewater Treatment

Any new wastewater treatment facilities will require funding, which will require hiring a grant writer.

Natural Resource Inventory

Check out the state guide, which Dave will send via e-mail. Also see what others have done -- i.e. Dryden, NY.