

# *Town of Canandaigua*

5440 Routes 5 & 20 West  
Canandaigua, New York 14424

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION BOARD**

*Established November 4, 2009*

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017**

### **2017 Annual Report**

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To: Canandaigua Town Board

From: Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

#### **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**

In preparation for the New York State Department of Agricultural and Markets Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (PDR) program in Spring of 2018, the Town announced the opening of a grant application window in June 2017 for those farm operators and landowners interested in considering the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. Eleven applications were received by the deadline of September 29, 2017.

A wide range of farming operations were presented in the applications. In order to evaluate the applications, the Town Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Environmental Conservation Board ranked the applications according to town established criteria in November 2017. Ranking included: Soil Composition, Proximity to Other Natural Resources, Development Pressure, Proximity to Already Preserved Land, Proximity to Public Sewer/Water, Succession Planning, and Landowner's Commitment to the PDR process, among many other criteria.

The three top ranked applications were presented to the Town Board for their approval. The Town will be working with these farm operators to prepare application packages for submission to Ag & Markets in the Spring 2018. These applications represent over 600 acres of additional farmland that could be preserved in the future.

#### **Open Space Index**

The ECB is charged with maintaining an up to date inventory and map of lands of conservation interest in the Town. Three members of the ECB are engaged in a committee to update the Open Space, Conservation and Scenic Views Master Plan which was begun this year as a result of the

implementation goals in the Town's *2011 Comprehensive Plan*. A committee was formed to select a consultant to manage a complete update of the Open Space Master Plan; to develop a comprehensive analysis of lands of environmental importance in the Town; to hold public meetings and conduct a survey of Town residents to inform the Master Plan process; and to prepare an implementation plan to protect resources considered not sufficiently protected as a result of the committee's findings, among others. The committee believes that a final product will be presented to the Town Board and residents in the first quarter of 2018.

### **Open Space Index Referrals**

And as last year, in 2017 dozens of site plan applications for development in locations of potential environmental significance were referred to the ECB for review. The ECB provided comments to the Planning and Zoning Boards in mitigating potential negative impacts.

### **Natural Resources Inventory**

In early 2017, the Natural Resources Inventory Team (NRI Team) completed development of the Steep Slopes Protection Law which was presented to and adopted by the Town Board. The Team is currently working on a draft Ridgeline/Viewshed Protection Law which is going through a lengthy review process. It is estimated that this draft law will be presented to the Town Board in Spring of 2018.

### **Public Education and Outreach (MS4)**

The ECB continues its mandate in public education to inform our residents of natural resource protection issues. The Board now has a regular page in the Town's quarterly newsletter in which it provides articles regarding topical/seasonal environmental content. We also provide content on the Town's listserve, Facebook, and our own Board page on the Town website.

We continued our Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop at Onanda Park this year with great success. We partnered with Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, SWCD, and FLCC to provide content and outreach. It is always gratifying to see the enthusiasm of the young attendees.

Encouraging water quality awareness, we sponsored a Rain Garden program at Outhouse Park. This Park showcases two rain gardens which were installed at the time the park was constructed. We also used the newsletter and other media to publicize this event.

### **ECB Involvement**

ECB members continue to serve on other committees in the Town to ensure that the intent of the many resource protection policies in the Town will be represented. ECB members have committed to serving the Town on the Town's Citizens Implementation Committee (CIC), the Natural Resources Inventory Team (NRI), the Open Space Master Plan Committee, the Planning Review Committee, the Joint Town/City Local Waste Management Plan (Plan 2028) Committee, and the Ontario County County Road 16 Planning Study Steering Committee. Our members share their experience and information with each other at every meeting. This exchange enables the ECB to be aware of critical issues that may have environmental consequences.

### **Proposed ECB Projects for 2018**

The following projects and others are being considered by the ECB and will be submitted to the Town Board for their approval in January 2018:

- Public Education and Outreach opportunities for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Aquatic Invasive Species and Terrestrial Invasives training for Highway Department.
- Quarterly newsletter articles on topics, such as Natural Capital, Bird Habitat at Miller Park, Food Recycling, Plan 2028.
- Participate in New Highway Facility Open House: Food Recycling materials table, compost bin giveaway, compost education materials table.
- Rain Garden program at Outhouse Park

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Marthaller, Chairperson Environmental Conservation Board