

**TOWN OF CHATHAM, ZONING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2012 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were: Jean Rhode, Bob Linville, Henry Swartz, Dave Everett, Bob Johnson, Mitch Khosrova, Donna Staron, Marilyn Cohen and Tal Rappleyea. Excused: Don Hegeman.

At the request of the Town Board, the Committee reviewed the various drafts of the proposed Conservation Advisory Council Local Law.

The review and discussion began with an analysis of the two relevant authorizing statutes: General Municipal Law Sections 239-x and 239-y. The Committee then reviewed, in depth, each of the 3 versions of the proposed: the current law, the version proposed by the Town Board and under consideration since early this year and a version proposed at last month's town board meeting.

The Committee then focused on the issues of 1) junior participation and 2) Planning Board/ZBA appointees as possible members. All agreed that appointment of residents of 16 and 17 years of age is a good idea, but disagreed on the level of authority to be granted to such members. The conversation became a balancing of the pros and cons of allowing full voting membership against the pros and cons of appointment as ex officio members. Ultimately the Committee agreed that appointment as ex officio members would be more appropriate. The Committee also discussed and agreed that PB and ZBA members should be eligible as members of the CAC.

The Committee again focused on the differences between the various versions of the proposed law under review. The primary differences related to membership, the breadth of the authority to be given to the CAC and the manner in which budgeting might occur. Thus the Committee agreed to recommend that the local law clarify that the revenue and expenditure of the CAC must be accomplished in the same manner as all other Town departments and agreed to add terminology that the budgeting process must be submitted to and approved by the Town Board.

The proposed local laws also differed on the role of the CAC. The version recently offered by a town board member contains a contradiction in that §134-1 states that the CAC is "...created to advise the town board...", however, §134-4 (b) states that the CAC shall "Seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes and to cooperate with other official municipal bodies active in the area community planning for the Town of Chatham". Therefore, the ZIC agreed to omit 134-4(b) as being contradictory to the purpose of the CAC.

Next, the ZIC agreed that greater clarity with respect to the approval authority of the Town Board should be provided in the local law and thus agreed to recommend that the duties relating to the advertizing, printing, distribution, etc. of books, maps, charts, etc. must first be approved by the Town Board and that any interaction with the NYSDEC authorized under the local law must also be approved by the Town Board before same is commenced.

Lastly, the ZIC discussed the final options of either leaving the current local law, as written in the Code book or repealing it entirely. All present agreed that a CAC is an excellent tool for providing assistance and information to the Town Board and that the recommendations set forth above are the most appropriate.

On a motion by Bob Linville, seconded by Bob Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Chatham Town Hall. (Normally the next meeting would have been the first Monday of July. However, that falls on July 4th and the Committee agreed to wait to 7/18).