

**TOWN OF CLARKSON**  
**CONSERVATION BOARD – MINUTES**

April 14, 2010

**Board Members**

Brian Lemon – Chairperson  
Stacy Peck  
Michael Beadling  
Sue Beck  
Juliann Dean

**Support Board Members**

Richard Olson, Town Attorney \*  
Ursula Liotta, Building Department Coordinator  
\*excused

**Guests Present**

Andrew Pleninger, Urban Forestry, LLC  
David Goodwin, Highway Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER**

**NEW BUSINESS**       None

**OTHER - Planning Session re: Forestry Grant**

A. Pleninger had prepared the agenda for the evening based on work done to date, work to be considered and/or completed in the future. He also presented a Survey & Management Review Outline (copy attached hereto) which he reviewed for the Board point by point. A. Pleninger stated that he reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and found quite a bit of information regarding Hamlet design. Discussion between the Board, A. Pleninger and D. Goodwin, included, in part, as follows:

- Open the tree program to any resident in the Town to purchase a tree; the Town would plant it and the owner would maintain it.
- The resident would sign a temporary easement to allow the Town to plant the tree on private property.
- Take a survey; tell the residents that we are working on a plan and send out a survey to find out what the interest level is re: purchasing a tree. Target the urban (w/sidewalks) first, and suburban (w/o sidewalks) second.
- Most of the grant money received for trees is dollar for dollar.
- To secure a grant, a street inventory needs to be completed, and what trees should be planted needs to be decided.
- We could develop a program that takes requests from residents, or plan on planting a whole street at a time.
- Need to prepare a bid document that specifies standards and quality.
- Conceptually, do we want to commit to a street plan or open it up to all streets?
- Do we want to target streets that have sidewalks, i.e. urban areas? A. Pleninger estimated 500 plant sites in the urban areas.
- D. Goodwin suggested a “sidewalk-tree district”, similar to the other special districts in town that are charged to the residents on their town & county tax bills; that the town would plant and maintain the trees and sidewalks on those street because the residents pay for maintenance on their tax bills.
- Eventually, we will need to decide bare-root or balled & burlap trees.

The next meeting w/A. Pleninger will be in two months, on June 9, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. In the meantime, his objective will be to:

- Proceed w/Comprehensive Plan outline
- Target urban design (streets w/sidewalks) and
- Target Hamlets, specifically, Clarkson Corners and Garland
- Target parks
- Inventory trees in those three target areas

**NEXT MEETING:**    May 12, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**   Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ursula M. Liotta

Building Department Coordinator

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**Survey & Management Review Outline**

April 14, 2010

I. Comprehensive Plan

“will accommodate a wide variety of life style preferences with regard to density cost size and type.”

a. Hamlet Design Principles

- i. Pedestrian Friendly Streets
- ii. Trees and multi-story buildings frame pedestrian zone
- iii. Incorporate the use of street trees
- iv. New Neighborhood Parks
- v. Preserve Natural Features
- vi. Streets
  1. Clarkson Corners
  2. Garland

b. Neighborhood Design Principles

- i. Pedestrian Friendly Streets
- ii. Highest density areas closest to Hamlet areas
- iii. Yards in residential areas provide transition of public realm of street to private realm of home
- iv. Linear Street Tree Plantings
- v. Streets

c. Rural Design Principles

- i. Low density
- ii. Preserve Natural Features including streams, woodlands and wetlands
- iii. Curvilinear forms and natural materials
- iv. Varied location and character of buildings and vegetation
- v. This objective needs to be implemented in the development process to preserve natural features
- vi. Possibility – natural plantings in ROW.

d. Commercial

- i. Rural Vision
- ii. Small & medium sized commercial and industrial

e. Parkland

- i. Expand by 40 to 65 acres

f. The tree plantings would be in the Town right-of-way and thus under the control of the Town. The preservation of natural vegetation in wetland areas would need to be secured in the development process.

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II. Community Forestry Survey Findings

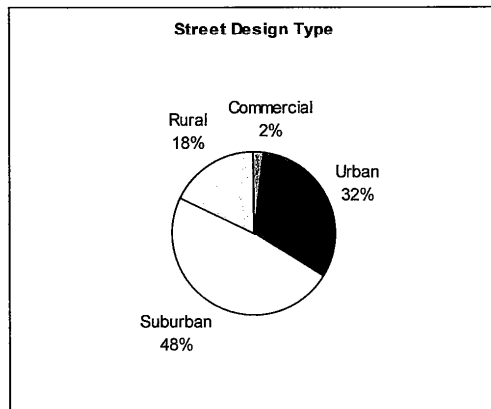
A windshield survey of Town streets was completed in March of 2010. Each street was classified into three management types. The management types were defined as follows.

- Urban – residential streets with sidewalks
- Suburban – residential streets without sidewalks
- Rural – rural roadways with mixed uses
- Commercial – roadways with primarily commercial and industrial land uses

Another objective of the survey was to identify and make management recommendations on any trees that may represent a threat to people or property and a census of any street trees located in the town right of way.

a. Findings

- i. One risk tree for removal
- ii. Very few street trees
- iii. Urban & Suburban are designated Neighborhood Residential in Comprehensive Plan



III. Town Code

- a. Will need to be amended
  - i. Designate responsibility for the management of trees in the ROW

IV. Issues & Recommendations

- a. "Urban" Design Streets
  - i. Sidewalks & Street trees
  - ii. Plan on street tree plantings

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- iii. 6.58 Miles
- b. "Suburban" Design Streets
  - i. No sidewalks
  - ii. Preserve suburban design, do not plant street trees
  - iii. 9.99 miles
- c. Rural
  - i. Preserve natural features
- d. Commercial Streets
  - i. Tree Planting ?
- e. State/County Roads
  - i. Clarkson Corners Hamlet
    - 1. Ridge Rd & Lake Rd
    - 2. Poor Design Elements for street Trees
    - 3. Permission form State to plant trees
  - ii. Garland Hamlet
    - 1. Ridge R & Sweden Walker Rd
    - 2. Poor Design Elements for street Trees
    - 3. Permission form State to plant trees
  - iii. Gilmore Rd.
    - 1. Sidewalks on one side
- f. Proposal Changes
  - i. Sample Street Tree Inventory
    - 1. Too Few street tree to complete
    - 2. Recommendation
      - a. Inventory trees and planting sites on "Urban Design" Streets street
  - ii. Park Tree Inventory
  - iii. Standards & Specifications Document