

10b. Conservation Board update

The Conservation Board met on Feb 22, and basically had three topics of discussion.

Topic 1 revolved around the public review draft of the Comprehensive Plan, specifically the maps that have been utilized. It would seem that the maps are based on data that is out-of-date. The data is out there, as is the software, so if maps are at issue and there is no one on staff who is expert at GIS, the Conservation Board needs to find someone to provide support.

Topic 2 centered around a resolution of support for employing bio-sequestration and regenerative agricultural practices, the same resolution that was presented to the Ag Committee last month. This resolution was tabled for a resolution rewrite in light of the discussion over the matter and (NYS) grant availability that would fund regenerative farming projects.

Topic 3 involved stormwater assessments. The CB acknowledged the problem in the Town regarding stormwater management/oversight, and the chair will reach out to R Burger and D Sprout to see if either one would be able to address the CB on this subject in the near future.

10c. DRYC update

The DRYC met on Mar 23.

They held discussions on completing an updated Needs Assessment. This should be a priority for the DRYC as it should help direct their 2022 efforts.

The DRYC is also helping Tompkins Co. Youth Services with their Needs Assessment by providing feedback on extant questions and being given the option to add questions, if desired. The DRYC will also help out with the dissemination of this Needs Assessment.

10d. Ag Committee update

The Ag Committee met last week on Mar 9 and primarily discussed the ag-relevant sections of the public review draft of the Comprehensive Plan, specifically the sections entitled "Farmland Protection and Agriculture" (p 56ff) and "Goal OS 3 - Preserve, Promote, and Support the Town's Agricultural Lands" (p 63).

Notice was also given that ...

After two years of being on hiatus due to COVID, Dryden Dairy Day will be coming back for in-person events this year (Sa Jun 11).

Dairy Princess Program has been rebranded as the Dairy Ambassador Program of NY.

Dryden Historical Society's Homestead Heritage Fair Day will be making its return on Sep 24.

10g. Climate Smart update

The Climate Smart Communities Task Force gathered on Mar 1 and, as usual, was chockablock with information. Guests included Ella Bormet, our new clean energy intern, and two students from the Dryden High School Sustainability Club, who are contemplating joining the task force.

One point of discussion centered on what project to next apply expected grant monies. DPW building improvements was the suggestion that kept bubbling up.

Another point of discussion focused on how to better involve Dryden High School students in the Task Force, given that DHS has both a Sustainability Club and a Climate Change course offering. The presence of the two students was one step toward this, as well as plans to involve students in community outreach and education in regards to Dryden's Climate Action Plan.