



EMC News

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TOWN OF ITHACA MUNICIPAL REPORT

Submitted by Barney Unsworth

The Town government has been concerned with open space for many years. In 1997, a "Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan" was adopted which addressed some of the issues growing out of the accelerating rate of development in the community. Public spaces were designated in the plan to help mitigate these pressures. Three such spaces, all designated in the '97 plan, have reached a point where construction can move ahead this year. Land acquisition, available funding and other issues have been dealt with so that action can be taken.

The Pew Bike Trail will be part of the East Hill Recreation Way and will link parts of that trail. Another, Tutelo Park, is an eight-plus-acre site which when completed will include a ball diamond, picnic facilities, a pavilion, parking and other features which will result, in about two years, in a full-fledged community park. The third, Woolf Lane Park, is planned as an amenity for its immediate neighborhood. So it will be considerably smaller than Tutelo Park and will contain trail connections to the Black Diamond Trail which is under development by the state.

In other news, The CB has joined those opposing the construction of new facilities for City water treatment inside the Six Mile Creek Natural Area.

Our CB-developed and -proposed stream buffer ordinance has moved on to the Town Codes and Ordinances Committee for consideration.

The CB is urging support for the volunteer monitoring program for the Six Mile Creek watershed, as outlined in the draft proposal of 2/9/04. The program would be similar to the one currently developed for the Fall Creek watershed, designed to "foster the

development of subwatershed databases of scientifically credible volunteer monitoring".

Development activity in the Town has reached a level which appears to exceed the normal level for several decades, at least. As examples, Overlook at West Hill has reached subdivision and site plan approval level for a proposed 128 affordable rental apartments in 16 buildings and 15 lots for single-family market rate homes. Sky Gardens Condominiums has submitted a sketch plan review for approximately 200 market-rate condominiums in twelve buildings, with swimming pool, jogging trails, etc. And so it goes. Single family residential activity abounds as well.

TOWN OF LANSING MUNICIPAL REPORT

Submitted by Larry Sharpsteen

I have attended no meetings since our last. Basically, Work continues on the review of the subdivision ordinance, and we have completed site plan review on an industrial expansion on Cayuga Vista Drive. Work continues on phased approval of a Pheasant Way major subdivision off Hillcrest Rd.

TOWN OF DRYDEN MUNICIPAL REPORT

Submitted by Joyce Gerbasi

The Town is still working on its comprehensive plan. Land for the NYS Department of Transportation has been annexed to the Village in order to form a new water district. The Conservation Board has been reviewing some site plans for development as part of its new responsibilities. There is a cooperative study with the Town of Caroline on Six Mile Creek, with volunteer monitoring training starting.

more News! 

HELP CURB LIGHT POLLUTION

Submitted by Heather Filiberto

According to the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) the United States spends \$2 to \$4.5 billion annually on wasted light. Light pollution has been discussed for decades, but only recently has it become a pressing environmental issue and a concern for all levels of government. There are four simple technical solutions to the problem of light pollution: 1) reduce the wattage; 2) direct the light downward; 3) shield the light; and 4) lower the height of the light pole. Major manufacturers of outdoor lighting in North America have begun developing dark sky friendly lighting. Local and state governments nationwide are enacting regulations and laws to curb light pollution.

In 2002, the Czech Republic became the first country to enact a national light pollution law. The legislation requires the use of fully shielded outdoor light fixtures by all residences, businesses, and government agencies. In the US, eight states have enacted light pollution laws of varying degrees and effectiveness. Municipalities are no longer waiting for state governments to take action. They are tackling the light pollution dilemma on the local level. Thousands of ordinances and regulations have been passed.

The IDA is working to complete a national outdoor lighting code. They will then follow with a national campaign to educate the public. Upon request, the IDA may visit communities to educate municipal officials about light pollution and help them adopt and implement the model lighting ordinance. Visit darksky.org for useful information on how your community can take steps to curb light pollution.

(Excerpts taken from *Planning*, March 2004).

See you at the next EMC meeting

June 9, 2004 at 7:00pm!