

Vestal Conservation Advisory Commission  
Minutes of the June 19, 2014 Meeting

Present: Curt Pueschel, Steve Appel, Victor Lamoureux, and interns Megan Larson and Stephanie Craig

Minutes of the April meeting had been approved by e-mail. The planned visit to Castle Gardens had to be postponed owing to rain, but it did take place on May 15 in lieu of our regular meeting. The present meeting was combined with a visit to Magnolia Drive Park. The next regular meeting of the CAC is scheduled on July 17, 2014.

Subsequent to our last formal meeting on April 24th, Curt came across contact information for Talisman Energy and communicated with them by e-mail regarding the impoundment near the Choconut Creek. The full exchange is included below.

Questions from the CAC:

1. Is the impounded water treated in any way in the impoundment before it is used for tracking? Specifically, are antifreezes used in winter? Are algicides used to curb the development of algal growth? Are fracking chemicals mixed into the impoundment water before the water is transported to the well pads?
2. We understand that the impoundment is lined? For what purpose? Will flowback or produced water ever be placed in the impoundment?
3. Is the impoundment entirely below the surrounding ground level, or is there an above-grade dammed wall on a slope? If so, how high above grade?

Responses from Amy H. Gilbert Stakeholder Relations Advisor Talisman Energy USA Inc.:

All of our Pennsylvania water impoundments contain nothing but fresh water, withdrawn on a permit issued by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. We don't add any chemicals to the water stored in impoundments. The impoundment is lined so the fresh water will stay in it until we need it. Generally, the bottom of the pond averages about 10 feet below the original ground elevation. We also build about a 10-foot dike around it.

Victor showed the latest version of the ash and hemlock identification guides being developed with artistic help from a Vestal High student. The project is getting close to completion, and we hope to include a CAC e-mail address on the sheets. Curt has inquired about having a Town e-mail address assigned to the CAC, and we are awaiting an official response to our request.

The recent visit to the Castle Gardens properties was discussed. In reviewing the Town's holdings on the Broome County GIS parcel maps, Curt found that the parcel we walked through from Castle Garden to the pond is still listed as belonging to Sarkids Ltd., not the Town. Steve discussed it with the Town Clerk and received assurance that the Town now holds the deed.

The only park we have not yet visited as a group is Arnold Park, and we will attempt to do so before our next regular meeting. Curt will compile the site descriptions for all the parks we have visited to date, and distribute them. We can then decide what follow-up visits are necessary to verify the descriptions of features. Finally, we will focus on what recommendations we might make.