

Harpersfield Board Considers Stream Management Plan

By Celin Schoen

Jessica Rall of the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District spoke to the town board, when the Harpersfield councilmen met on Feb. 9, asking the board to consider passing a resolution to adopt the West Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Management Plan.

She said the plan was developed by her organization, working closely with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the local project advisory committee and other watershed stakeholders. So far, 16 of the 19 towns in the county have adopted the plan, she said.

Rall explained the plan takes a science-based, long-term man-

agement approach to the streams in the basin, with the Delaware County Board of Supervisors listed as the lead agency for the adoption of both the plan and coordination of the environmental review. She added that if adopted, the plan could provide an opportunity for funding for certain appropriate projects.

The plan addresses water quality and economic vitality issues, as defined by local communities and regional experts. The town has already adopted and supports the goals of both the Delaware County Action Plan for water resource protection and the Delaware County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, she noted, and has recognized that the west branch of the Delaware River and its tributaries are key elements of the identity of the Cannonsville Reservoir watershed.

She reminded the councilmen that the county Soil and Water Conservation District and the town of Harpersfield have worked cooperatively in the past on stream management issues relevant to both public and private interests.

The resolution, as stated, would "recognize and adopt the management plan as a guidance document that can assist the town and its landowners with addressing

long-term management of the watershed in a way that is consistent with the protection of public and private property, the protection of natural resources, goals and strategies for water quality protection and economic opportunities, as defined in the plan, in a way that will provide the township, its landowners and visitors with multiple benefits."

Although no action was taken during the meeting, the board agreed to consider the resolution in the future.

In a related issue, board members recommended that gravel levels be kept up in streams in the township, with the help of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

A thank you was received from the town planning board for its favorable

advisory and funding in the 2010 budget.

Dennis Hill reported that the interest in the Harpersfield Historical Society's savings account at NBT was very low, adding that, according to Hobart branch manager Julie Bullock, municipalities earn a lower rate of interest. He recommended looking elsewhere for a higher interest rate.

The board discussed information on the correct disposal of pharmaceutical materials by health care facilities.

Highway Superintendent Russell Hatch reported that public employees are required to have a policy regarding violence in the workplace. Such a policy has been reviewed at the county level and was adopted by the town councilmen.