

The second invasive species is the "Oriental Bittersweet", introduced in the USA in 1840 as an oriental plant. It is an aggressive invader vine that can completely cover and uproot the native plants, such as the apple trees.

The last invader is the Emerald Ash Borer and is not in Peach Hill yet but is found in many areas surrounding the park . It was brought into this country in 2002 from Asia in cargo ships. The Emerald Ash Borer actually burros into the ash tree and causes the tree to starve and die and fall over. The eradication of the Emerald Ash Borer is extremely hard and very costly and pre-emptive action would be the best course to prevent any destruction that the plant can cause.

The students plan, starting this fall, with the help of other volunteers, to pick a specific area of the park that is heavily infected with invaders. They will take down the vines on the trees, cut the grass underneath and learn how to prune the trees in the coming Spring so that the tree can produce more organic apples.

Councilman Krakower praised the group for the nice thing that they are doing and commented on Recreation Director Meyering helping them.

Councilman Conte, who works for Adams Equipment, offered assistance from other Adams departments to the students and gave them his work phone number for help that might be provided by Adams Fairacre Farms.

10:12-COW2 PRESENTATION
(RECREATION
DIRECTOR
MEYERING)

Pesticide Bioremediation Project By
Robin Embick, Vassar College Student

Ms. Embrick explained that she is planning a Phytoremediation Project using soils based at Peach Hill. Phytoremediation is the use of plants to neutralize or remove contaminates from soil and water and it has emerged as a promising remediation strategy because it is more economical and less environmentally disruptive than any other remediation techniques such as soil evacuation and soil sterilization. From the 1800's to 1960's arsenic based fungicides were commonly used in apple orchards to control codling moths. Peach Hill was formerly an apple orchard, where arsenic based fungicides were used. Arsenic does not degrade over time, so it can continue to be a source of contamination even when

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it has not been used for decades. Although trace levels of arsenic occur widely in soils than in geological sources, the US Environmental Protection Agency classifies inorganic arsenic as a carcinogenic agent in humans. Elevated levels can be toxic to humans, plants and animals. Given Peach Hill's pesticide history, in 2001 Ecosystems Strategies, an environmental consulting company was commissioned by the Town of Poughkeepsie to perform a soil pesticide investigation at Peach Hill in areas that were likely exposed to long term pesticide application. They were looking specifically for pesticides such as DDT and arsenic residues. The DEC action levels are at 7.5 parts per million and the levels of arsenic found at these sites were just slightly about that at about 15 parts per million and one was 20 parts per million. The arsenic contamination at Peach Hill is relatively shallow in the soil profile and therefore is easily accessible for the roots of phytoremediation plants to access and remove the arsenic. What I want to stress is that the arsenic levels in the 2001 report were not high enough to require immediate remedial action because the park is used passively as a recreational space. So, that is why for my senior project I'm interested in doing a phytoremediation project using the soils at Peach Hill. My plan is to retest the arsenic levels to confirm the concentrations that were found in the 2001 study. Then remove approximately 5" of topsoil from selective locations that are not visible from the trail and take that soil back to Vassar College and do a greenhouse study where I grow two different plant species in the soil. The two species I'm interested in are a sunflower cultivar, which is an annual dwarf called "Teddy Bear" and the other is called "Marsh Fern" which is native to New York and grows wild. These two species, in addition to their phytoremedial qualities, and their ability to accumulate arsenic, they also are easy to grow and aesthetically pleasing and ideal for a public park. I will compare the accumulation potentials between the two plants and in addition I will compare accumulation between planting strategy so I will plant the seed directly into contaminated soil vs growing seeds in healthy soil and then transplanting them into contaminated soil. With my results, I'm hoping to find a way to share them with the public and then submit a final copy to the Town of Poughkeepsie Recreation Department.

Councilman Krakower: When you plant these plants into the soil, they absorb the arsenic? (Yes). Do they effectively process it and when the plant dies, the arsenic is no longer or do you have to harvest the plants to get the arsenic out of there?

Robin Embick: Some species convert the arsenic from inorganic arsenic, which is

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the most common form of arsenic in pesticides to an organic form, which is less toxic and store them. In that case, it wouldn't be as important to harvest the plant and then landfill it. That is what is believed to happen with sunflowers but is not well understood. With ferns, however, they do not convert inorganic arsenic into organic arsenic. They actually absorb the arsenic as a defense mechanism. In those cases, you would have to harvest the fern and landfill them. I believe that it is still more economical to harvest the plant rather than to excavate soil and then sterilize it and replace it.

THE TOWN BOARD THANKED MS. EMBICK FOR ALL HER HARD WORK AND FOR HELPING THE TOWN COMMUNITY TO BE A BETTER PLACE.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
2011**

- 1. FINANCE** **Krakower, Tancredi & Lecker**
Councilman Krakower: We met this afternoon and we have another finance meeting with some Department Heads tomorrow to review the budget and it is a work in process.
- 2. FIRE ADVISORY** **Conte, Lecker, Splain & Fire Officials (Arlington, New Hamburg, Fairview)**
Councilman Conte: No report.
- 3. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS** **Eagleton, Cifone & Lecker**
Councilman Eagleton: My compliments for that safety letter that went out to all the employees. I think it was a great idea.
- 4. LAND USE & PLANNING** **Krakower, Tancredi & Cifone**
(Including Cell Tower & Comp. Plan)
Councilman Krakower: No report.
- 5. PERSONNEL** **Cifone, Eagleton & Conte**
Councilman Cifone: No report.
- 6. RECREATION** **Tancredi, Cifone, Conte & Meyering**
(Including Town Day)
Councilman Tancredi: This past Saturday, members of the Third and Fourth Ward and some people from outside the Third and Fourth Ward, put a couple of benches in at Crestwood Park and cleaned up the whole park. They repaired all the wooden cabinets for the garbage containers and put new dirt down and

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improved the grass near the memorial. I thank Tom Meyering and all the volunteers.

7. SENIOR CITIZENS **Tancredi**, Krakower & Conte
Councilman Tancredi: We are finally and hopefully wrapping up the designs for the Senior Center and we can get it out to bid to see what kind of prices come in. Hopefully, this will happen within the very near future.

8. TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT **Lecker**, Eagleton & Krakower
Councilman Eagleton: We weren't able to secure any type of funding for hearing impaired at the meeting, so the only option left is with Councilman Lecker putting in closed optioning.

Supervisor Myers: I told you last week that we were having a little trouble moving Time Warner along, well, we did get a copy of the completed agreement, finally.

9. WATER, SEWER, HIGHWAY (INFRASTRUCTURE) **Eagleton**, Lecker & Conte
Councilman Krakower: The budget that has been proposed to cut money for highway repairs down to \$100,000, and our entire Town got flooded out over the past few months, failed money we get back from FEMA, but it still doesn't solve the flooding problem, so, one of the things I think we need to do in this process is to try to find some money to put back in there because we can't have residents come to our meetings and call us constantly and say, "My house is being flooded or my basement flooded", because telling Town's people, "We realize you have a problem but we don't have any money to fix it", when their houses are getting washed away is a terrible thing to do. So, we have to make some kind of a commitment to find that money.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

10:05-ES1 **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** To Enter Executive Session To Consider Following Matters:
A. Contract negotiations
B. Personnel Matters, to wit: To discuss the employment history of particular individuals who need not be identified at this time.
C. Confidential communication between Attorney and his Client, the Town Board, based On Attorney/Client privilege

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there will be no action appropriating money.

MR. RICHARD CANTOR, ESQ. WAS INVITED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

TOWN BOARD MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P. M.

TOWN BOARD ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:45 P. M.

TOWN BOARD RETURNED TO TOWN BOARD MEETING AT 8:15 P. M.

NO ACTION TAKEN IN/FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

TOWN BOARD MEETING CLOSED AT 8:15 P. M.