

## Minutes

### Town of Walkill Commission for Conservation of the Environment January 10, 2005

The meeting convened at 7:45 PM. Present: Kate Fox, Sal LaBruna, Kevin Sumner. Claude Braithwaite joined the meeting late.

Approval of minutes will be postponed until the next meeting.

Commission expenses: Sal made **50 copies** since the last meeting, Kevin made **25**.

Correspondence: 1) Copy of letter from Sal to Gary Lake re: copies of P.B. information to the Conservation Commission. 2) Response from Gary Lake. The P.B. will put PB agenda maps in the CC file drawer.

We discussed procedures for which projects the CC should receive, and which ones would be reviewed. It is beyond the scope and ability of the CC to review all projects. We felt that 'minor' proposals such as 2-lot subdivisions need not be forwarded. Three-lot subdivisions and up should be forwarded. The CC could then do cursory review of applications and determine which ones warranted more detail review.

Sal noted that we are getting materials from the Planning Board in response to our request.

We discussed the THR article about the Tetz plant proposal. Sal was fairly comfortable with the content of the article. He got some good feedback from Town officials about the Commission's role in this project's review.

We briefly discussed the parkland fees and cul-de-sac agenda items for the Jan. 13 Town Board meeting. The CC has interest in both these issues. Sal hopes to attend to find out more specifics.

We discussed the agriculture inventory which the CC is hoping to complete as part of Town-wide natural resource inventory the CC is charged with completing. Sal distributed an excellent draft ag land inventory outline he had prepared. Kevin suggested adding 'rented land' to part II of the inventory. It is expected that between the personal knowledge of the CC members and town councilman John King, in combination with the records maintained by the USDA Farm Services Agency, a very thorough inventory of commercial farms in the Town can be compiled. It will be more involved to identify smaller operations, but efforts will be made in this regard as well. We reviewed a preliminary map of the Town with some of the farms identified.

The Town of Gardiner (Ulster Co.) is considering adoption of a new local law that would provide for earlier neighbor notification when projects requiring local approvals are first proposed. It was covered in a THR article recently. We would like to access their draft, if possible.

Kate noted that Karen Strong, a biologist who works for NYSDEC, could be a real asset when we start working on biodiversity/habitat issues as part of the Town Natural Resource Inventory. We should bring her in if possible.

We discussed the Shawangunk Kill protection measures being spearheaded by councilman Dan Depew. The CC felt that a Town-wide stream protection program was worthy of consideration in conjunction with the Shawangunk protection efforts. Kevin has numerous examples of watercourse protection regulations from Towns in Putnam County that have been in place for a while. They all combine watercourse protection with local wetland protection.

The next meeting of the CC will be on Monday, January 24, 2005. It was noted that David Church, Orange County Planning Commissioner, is expected to attend to provide input/advice on our open space/ag inventory efforts.

Adjourn at 9:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Sumner