

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 01/16/06

Begin

7:35 pm

Attending

- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite – Not attending
- Patricia Owen – Not attending
- Jon Paul Heurich– Not attending
- Kevin Sumner – Not attending
- Mike Leary
- Kate Fox

Review of Previous Meeting Notes

- Minutes were handed out and read individually. The minutes could not be officially approved due to the small number of attendees. The meeting notes will be approved at the next meeting.

Official Business

- PDR Program
 - The resolution was approved 4-0-1.
 - Kevin will take the application to the county to solicit additional support / funding.
- Kate went to a presentation of Natural Resources Inventory with Karen Strong, the Biodiversity Outreach Coordinator of the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS DEC. Karen presented (and Kate brought copies of):
 - Outline of action items to create a Natural Resources Inventory.
 - Lists of information sources, previous studies, etc.
 - Information on what data to collect, what formats to retain them in, etc.
 - Recommendations to the town board of how to create a Natural Resources Inventory.
 - Karen states that most of the information we need is already available. It just needs pulled together to create a “library”.
 - She has helped the Town of Montgomery get to roughly 70% completion on their inventory.
 - An inventory is important because it puts everything on the table so that developers understand issues prior to making proposals.
 - Natural resources assessment is necessary prior to any planning, site alteration, etc.
 - We have already applied for a grant (in conjunction with the Montgomery) for financial aid to complete the inventory.

- We will invite Karen to a future meeting, or have a special meeting, to give a presentation to the group.
 - Karen lives in Albany and will not be able to travel soon (7 months pregnant) so a special meeting as soon as possible at her convenience is appropriate.
 - We will offer to meet with her whenever is most convenient to her.
- Karen also said that a federally protected endangered species, the Indiana bat, has been identified in this area. There are several breeding colonies in the Wallkill valley, also known feeding sites in our area. Any development that would effect their habitat would need approval by US Fish and Wildlife.
- Planning Board Materials
 - There is a town board open meeting scheduled with the Globe Contracting site one of the issues.
 - We have presented our recommendation why this is not an appropriate use for this site.
 - This is a good example of why the town needs a stream preservation law.
 - Property on Cross Road, Section 19, block 1, lot 11.2. Fusco.
 - Lots of wetlands, steep slopes, etc.
 - 2 lots are planned at this time, but it appears to be a first step towards more extensive development.
 - There was also a diagram of a layout for future buildout of the entire property included in the package.
 - Long road that snakes through the area and potentially disturbs much of the wetlands.
 - Clustering in area of the currently planned lots away from the wetlands and steep slopes would be more appropriate.
 - We will create a generic document recommending against the current concept for the future buildout.
- Future Meetings
 - The next meeting (1/23) we will meet at 7:15 instead of 7:30 to get out pictures taken for our ID cards.
 - Mr. Lippert will be at the next meeting.
- Councilman King proposed and the town board approved a \$1000 budget.

Future Projects

- Tree cover – Mike will investigate / spearhead.
- Sidewalks – Sal will investigate / spearhead.
- Reduction of pollutants in storm water runoff
- Pace on-line course for land use. Everyone should complete.

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Mike. Seconded by Sal. 9:15.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 3 page meeting notes.
- Sal – 7 copies of 13 sheets of Agenda.
- Kate – 7 copies of 11 pages of inventory information from Karen Strong meeting.

- Sal also made several copies of documents for town officials, but didn't have an exact count at this time.