

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 02/13/06

Begin

7:35 pm

Attending

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

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

Comments of the meeting with Mr. Lippert

- Roundup
 - It is not a “selective” herbicide. It is a broad target herbicide that will kill grass.
 - It is not zero residue. It is low residue, breaks down fairly rapidly and binds with the dirt so firmly that it stays in place as long as there is not erosion. But, it can migrate with erosion.
- Why does the 3 years on then 1 year off minimize pollution and/or encourage the growth on ground cover?
- Sand may be more of a problem than salt locally, but to the larger watershed salt is becoming a very larger problem.
 - Some rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed now normally have later winter / spring salinity roughly 1/3 of sea water.
 - Some areas have switch to de-icers other than salt for their road maintenance, but the alternatives are much more expensive than salt.

Expenses / Budgets

- Do we still need to track copies and such now that we have a budget?
 - Yes, just to better understand exactly what we how much money we are using on “maintenance” (primarily making copies for the group and driving to sites).
- How should we estimate the cost of copies?
 - Charge for purchasing the paper and printer supplies?

- No, because the printers are personal printers that also get used for other purposes so it isn't possible to establish the ratio of ToW CC usage and personal usage.
- We will establish a standard rate for copies based upon what the town and/or other similar agencies charge.
- Formulate a proposed budget.
 - Mike will work on.

Alta East Proposed Development Review

- Tax map number 22-3-4.2, at the intersection of 17 and 302.
- Gas station / convenience store at the front edge of the site. Large truck sales / repairs towards the rear.
- Reviewed the general plan previously. The new information is the storm water pollution prevention plan.
 - Storm water pollution prevention plan was submitted only one week before the public hearing.
- The major obvious concern is that most water drains directly to retention ponds.
 - We will recommend that more water goes to a Bioretention area before going to the retention ponds.
 - Redesign of the grading and curbing is necessary to direct more water to Bioretention.
- However, there are only very small Bioretention areas on the site.
 - Why so many parking spaces (roughly 50 parking spaces)?
 - This is a large number of parking places compared to most quick stop type gas / convenience stores.
 - Could some be eliminated to increase the amount of Bioretention areas?
- We will make no written comments at this time due to the short time we have had to review the plan prior to the next planning board meeting.
 - Sal will go to the planning board meeting and tell them to expect us to submit written comments on the storm water plan.

Draft of TSS limit increase comments

- TSS was not included in the town code.
 - It should have been set at 300 mg/l, but was left off, probably simply due to an oversight.
 - Mr. Smith has recommended revising the town code to include TSS, but has also recommended that the limit be set at 400 mg/l instead of 300.
 - Note that this recommendation is for the incoming water into the treatment plant, not the effluent.
- We are recommending against the increase at this time due to:
 - Recent change to increase the total solids (TS) limit.
 - Let the effect of that change become apparent first before changing another limit.
 - A draft report sponsored by the Wallkill River Task Force which shows:
 - The town was in violation of its some portion of its SPDES limits for 12 consecutive quarters from April 2002 to Sept. 2005.
 - The report was based upon US EPA Enforcement & Compliance History Online (EHCO) reports.

- We don't fully understand the impact of these violations (are they based upon a monthly average and/or upon a single sample, what is "normal" for waste treatment plants, etc.).
- Delay raising the limit until the report is complete and finalized and we can better understand what the data is telling us.

Open Space Inventory Grant (being shared with the Town of Montgomery)

- The town board has been notified that we have received the grant, but no response from them at this point.
- Recommend that John King be appointed as board liaison.
- The intent is to use the funding to obtain a computer, mapping software, training classes, etc. for creating maps to document the open space inventory.

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 Kevin. Seconded by Mike. 9:00.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 5 page meeting notes.
- Sal – 7 copies of 4 sheets of Agenda.
- Sal also made several copies of documents for town officials, but didn't have an exact count at this time.