

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 03/27/06

Begin

7:35 pm

Attending

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

Review of Previous Meeting Notes

- Minutes were handed out and read individually. Nominated for approval by Kate. Seconded by Pat.

Official Business

PDR Program

- Sal confirmed with the town board that they are NOT doing currently taking any action towards advancing the law and/or appointing a special board.
- What do we do if the Smiley farm gets funded and the town board hasn't acted yet?
 - The process will continue with or without the town board's participation.
- OC open space program applications due by April 17th.
 - Can we apply while the application is pending for the state?
 - Technically, yes. But, it is unlikely that we will be strongly considered without the town's endorsement.
 - The Land Trust also has money that they will be required to spend this year.
 - But, probably need letter from the town board asking for the Land Trust's assistance.

Clean Water Act (CWA) Exceedances

- Copy of press release from NYPIRG discussing violations of the CWA.
- NYS, in general, is a big violator.
- OC is fairly high on the list, but not the top violator and not too much higher than the average.

Storm Drain Dumping

- A business in town changed the oil in all their trucks and dumped the oil down the storm drain.
- Wallkill code enforcement and the DEC are investigating.

NRI

- Summary of Kate's research of a Karen Strong handout on performing a NRI
 - **NOTE: Kate's presentation was too quick for my typing so this summary is brief and probably not very complete. If a better summary is desired then we will need Kate to supply some brief notes for inclusion.**
 - Consider the community need.
 - The method of presentation is important. Use as a public relations tool.
 - List the top 5 issues. 3 resource elements that could be used to help.
 - Do the most beneficial immediately. Fill in the rest later.
 - List volunteer organizations, experts, etc. who could be of assistance.
 - Create a scheduling checklist.
 - GIS development.
 - Establish funding.
 - How do we inform the public.
 - Mention it to John King and have him mention it at the town board meeting.
 - Place notice in the Wallkill Valley Times.
 - Create a separate NRI meeting that meets once per month?
 - Announce an initial meeting for May 22nd.
 - Try to get into the Times Herald-Record.
 - We need to create a list of useful maps and other information (can get most information from the water authority).
 - The Master Plan Committee also had a bunch of maps that may be useful.
 - Kate will ask Clark Najak (sp?) to come to the April 24th meeting and bring his maps, and if cannot attend then at least loan us the maps for the meeting.

Indiana Bat

- We will send a notice to the town board relating the Indiana Bat information that we received from Karen Strong.
 - The information will include the "Project Review Fact Sheet" and maps of where the bats are located.
 - It will also discuss the meaning of "development sensitive" area.
- We will remove the "Prothonotary Warbler" reference to avoiding diluting the importance of the Indiana Bat reference.
- Enforcement?
 - There is no enforcement involved at the state level, it is left up to the town to enforce.
 - Will Fish and Wildlife enforce?

More concerns over spraying of Roundup

- Is it really better than mowing?
- Is there a test that we can have Mr. Lippert conduct to determine this?
 - Choose two adjacent and/or similar areas.
 - Spray one section, mow another.
 - Watch to see how things develops.

Tetz

- They have presented a new plan with additional landscaping to shield the access road better.
- They have followed many of our guidelines and recommendations.

Joint Newsletter with other Wallkill Valley CACs

- Would help with public awareness and allow all the CACs to better understand, and leverage off, what their neighbors are doing.
- Kevin's office will publish if we can get everyone to contribute.

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. 9:20.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 4 page meeting notes.
- Sal – 7 copies of a 9 page Agenda.