

# TOW Conservation Commission

## Meeting Notes

**Meeting of 03/28/05**

### **Begin**

7:35 pm

### **Attending**

- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite – Not attending
- Patricia Owen
- 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. Nominated for approval by Pat. Seconded by Kevin.

### **Official Business**

- Cutting of tree near the intersection of Brown Road and Old Goshen Turnpike
  - Tree is at least 100 years old and could possibly be much older.
  - Cutting has been temporary delayed.
    - Sal, Pat and others called Mr. Ward and Mr. King over the weekend.
  - Hoping to speak to Mr. John Lippert of the highway department to discuss ways to save the tree.
- Mr. Harry Ross of Orange Environment will be at the next meeting.
- No planning board materials to review.
- Issues from planning board meeting
  - Warehouse on Tower Drive
    - The proposal is to cover almost the entire area with completely impervious surfaces.
    - The developer claims they need this much paved area to provide sufficient room to turn the trucks.
    - The Planning Board asked them to look at other options.
    - Kevin suggests looking into using porous pavement.
      - Used frequently in other areas.
- Wetlands law review
  - Some concerns over the size of the fines.
    - OK for developers, but maybe excessive for small property owner.

- Some concerns that some sections of our proposal law may be too strict and overbearing.
  - Send to town engineer and town board the way it is.
  - If they also have concerns, then review the law to determine if it should be modified to relax some requirements and/or lessen its impact.
- The New Paltz law is close to being adopted.
  - Importance because it is the basis of our law.
- Would like to have members of the planning board in at some point to discuss some of the projects under review and how they would be affected by the wetlands law.
  - Mike will create a database of what plans we have reviewed.
- Exemptions for agriculture?
  - Somewhat covered already by the “existing use” clause.
  - General consensus: we need some exemptions for agriculture.
    - If not, then the wetlands law could conflict with state ag law.
- Sal will be submitting annual report at town board meeting on Wednesday.
- Ag mapping project. How to complete?
  - Mail a questionnaire to town residents.
    - Will people respond?
    - Will they respond truthfully?
    - We can personally verify some percentage of responses to validate the survey.
    - If even moderately successful, then would reduce our need to actually view the property.
    - We will need the town board to authorize and pay for it.

## **Adjourned**

Motion to adjourn by Sal. Seconded by Mike. 8:40.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 2 page meeting notes
- Sal – 7 copies of 1 page agenda and other documents.