

# **TOW Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Notes**

**Meeting of 04/10/06**

### **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 Pat.  
Seconded by Sal.

### **Official Business**

**Visit by Clark Najac to help us decide what maps to use for our NRI. Clark supplied us with the following maps:**

- General road and street map.
- Open space resource – from planning and/or water authority.
  - The water authority can do much larger maps if we need them.
- Vellum maps from Orange Blueprint
- Open Space Resources map - Aquifers / water, biological resources, well head map from the county planning department.
  - We can get additional similar maps from Kelly at planning.
  - We should ask for specific resources to be included.
- Water systems map from county planning.
- School districts map from county planning.
- Water and sewer districts map from county planning.
- Wetlands maps from county planning.
- Parks and open protected space map.
- 1 inch = 0.375 miles is the “best” scale because county planning can print many maps at that scale.
- Clark also has aerial maps (didn’t leave them with us) from 2001 also, but there are new ones available.
  - The aerial maps are free to the town, but \$1000 for “consultants”.
  - Clark got them from the water authority.
  - Scale is 1” = 950 feet.

## **Tree Protection Ordinance discussion document**

- Mike handed out the document.
- We will read individually and discuss at the next meeting.

## **New homeowner education**

- New homeowners who move into the area sometimes don't understand the impact of their actions on the environment.
- Should we create an education program to give them the information they need to make good environmental decisions?
- Kevin says that soil and water already has an education program.
  - We could link to their website from the ToW.
- How do we know when someone moves in to send them literature and/or tell them to see the ToW website for information?
  - Could possibly have the assessors office place the information in their first tax bill?
  - However, by the time they get their first tax bill many important decisions could have already been made.

## **Budget for NRI meeting with Montgomery**

- The original maximum was \$40k with \$24k targeted for consultants and \$6k targeted for equipment and software (this is combined for both Wallkill and Montgomery).
- However, we actually only received \$20k.
- The estimated amount we need for the GIS software and a portable computer capable of running the software is \$3.5k to \$4k.
  - With the lower amount received if we target to obtain the full amount needed for the purchase of the computer and software then the ratio of money for hardware / software will be out of proportion with the original proposal.
  - The DEC does not like to target too much to hardware / software so if we go too far from the original ratios it may raise red flags and problems with getting the final approvals for the grants.
  - The general group decision is to discuss this with Montgomery and ask for as much as we feel is "safe" and then find some way to make up the difference needed to purchase the hardware / software through "other sources".
- Do we want to use the consultant who wrote the proposal as the "project manager".
  - It would probably makes sense, because that would be the simplest and least expensive
  - She is an expert on the "biological aspects", but we want to concentrate as much or more on wetlands, farmland protection, etc.
  - Can she give us a project proposal?
- We will also need to involve the town board in any decisions.

## **BAT (Biodiversity Assessment Training)**

- 5-7 volunteers
- Starts in January. 4 hours once a month.

## **Future Projects**

- Tree cover – Mike will investigate / spearhead.

- Initial analysis document has been created and presented to the group.
  - Work on analyzing other town's ordinances is underway.
- 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 Kate. 9:35.

## **Copies:**

- Mike – 7 copies of 4 page meeting notes. 7 copies of 6 page tree ordinance analysis document.
- Sal – 7 copies of a 9 page Agenda.