

# TOW Conservation Commission

## Meeting Notes

**Meeting of 04/25/05**

### **Begin**

7:40 pm

### **Attending**

- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite – Not attending
- Patricia Owen – Not attending
- 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 Sal. Seconded by Kevin.

### **Official Business**

#### Golden Triangle

- The FEIS only really covers Phase 1.
  - Will there be another EIS for Phase 2?
  - Is the town board giving approval for only Phase 1 or both phases?
- Number of children in schools has been questioned by many people. Should we also question?
  - Child per dwelling factor 0.2552
  - Taken from Urban Land Institute
  - Who is Urban Land Institute? “From their website: “Leading property owners, investors, advisers, developers, architects, lawyers, lenders, planners, regulators, contractors, engineers, university professors, librarians, students and interns.”
- What will be our comments
  - Recommend that a professional planner review the plan?
    - We have reviewed and have several small comments, but we don't have enough expertise and/or time to do the review that a project of this size and potential impact deserves.
  - Sal will start a document. If it seems we have enough legitimate beefs to have an effect then we will submit.

#### Review of various site plans

- Section 32, Block 1, Lot 43, 3 lots on Reservoir Road

- Concern over steepness of slope.
- Is there an area proper for the leach field (less than 15% grade).
- Concerns over driveway.
  - Does it exceed 10% grade?
  - No profile provided.
- No erosion control details.
- We will request to have driveway profile and erosion control details included in site maps.
- Section 41, Block 1, Lot 108.2
  - Almost the entire site is impervious
  - Ask for:
    - Porous pavement
    - Change building to 2 story instead of 1
    - Stormwater runoff improvements

#### Porous pavement?

- Where does it come from?
- Is it as durable?
- Kevin thinks it is a legitimate option, but needs a critical mass of people using it before the pavement plants will start producing it.
- If we keep recommending it and/or the town passes a law that requires its use in specific situations then plants would start producing it.
- Look up on EPA site so we have some information to justify our requests for it?

#### Time limits on site approvals

- Proposed new law to limit duration of site approvals created by the Town Board, discussed at the Planning Board meeting.
- Planning Board liked the general concept, but had many reservations over the details of the proposed law.
- We will send letter saying that we support.
- Kevin will check with someone he knows in the state government to see what other town's have similar laws that we could base ours upon.
- Also check with David Church.

#### Ag inventory

- David Church sent e-mail saying that they are working on the "first cut" and will have something to us soon.
- Maps from the USDA will soon be digitized.
  - Very detailed.
  - Historical information also.
  - In the final editing proofing stage.
  - Can be directly placed into our Ag Inventory.
  - Won't cover the small "hobby farmers" who don't deal with the USDA.
- Have John King and Dan DePew to future meeting.
  - Kevin will bring a detailed map.
  - We will all join John and Dan in starting to fill in the map.
- Should we add other information?
  - Scenic vistas, historical value, natural resources.

- Send letter to citizens potentially covered by the Ag law to see if they are willing to sell their development rights.
- State and county open space funds are available. Can we get town to match or at least pitch in some.
- What are the options? PDRs? What else? Conservation easement? Research and understand better before we do much else. Look at other towns. PDRs are the big way that it is being done. County already has it all spelled out.
- Al Valk? of Montgomery has offered to help ToW with this issue.

Kate passes out research on funding

- Description of the Kodak Greenway Awards
- List of past recipients and their projects.

Book recommended by Sal

- Home From Nowhere - Kunstler

## **Adjourned**

Motion to adjourn by Mike. Seconded by Kate. 9:45.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 5 page meeting notes and 3 page copies of pages from the Golden Triangle FEIS.
- Sal – 7 copies of 4 page agenda and other documents.