

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 05/08/06

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 Kevin.

Official Business

Proposed NYRI power line

- Do we want to get involved as an “interested party”?
 - Would allow us to get all the information that is released on the project.
 - The general consensus is “Yes, we want to be involved as an interested party”, but need to wait until the official application is submitted.

Ball Corp spill of n-Butanol

- Not much of an environmental hazard.
- Real issue is the lack of notification.
- Will make a comment to the town board just saying “probably no harm, but should be taken more seriously and reported to the DEC.”

Town Board issues

- Gordon Project
 - Crystal Run Road and Goshen Turnpike.
 - DEC wetlands up against the back edge of the site.
 - It appears to be closer than 100 ft to the wetlands, but according to the wetland maps (from 1987) the parking lots are not within the 100 ft boundary.
 - Kevin recommends that we depress all the parking lot islands to create more bio-retention areas.
 - Get the town’s landscape architect involved.
 - We will change our recommendations to make as many of the parking islands bio-retention areas as possible.

- Wallkill Manor
 - Town will have a wetlands consultant make a report.
 - We are recommending using Hudsonian.
 - The developer wants to change the entrance.
 - Probably less wetlands disturbance with the new entrance plan, but the new plan goes through the wooded wetlands instead of the “pond”.
- Shawangunk Road
 - The original plan was rejected because it exceeded the “length of cul-de-sac rule”.
 - But, developers discovered that they had submitted prior to rule so the plan is still valid.
 - The town planner created a plan for a “conservation subdivision”, but the applicant rejected it and returned with original plan.
 - The Army Corp has given permission for the wetlands disturbance, less than 1 acre.
 - All the backs of the lots are in Highway Commercial.
 - However, it doesn’t appear that there is much we can do about it other than comment that it appears to be a poor use of the land.
 - Deed restriction could be added to the lots to indicate on the map that there is wetland that cannot be filled.
 - But, this is difficult to enforce if the homeowner gradually fills the wetlands.
 - We could also suggest a group leach field.
 - Allows the houses to be clustered closer together.
 - Sal has been to the planning board meetings and he doesn’t feel that there is much left that we can do to delay the plan.
 - The general consensus is that this is a bad plan, the planning board is in general against it so we should provide as much ammunition to the planning board as possible.
 - Make it the first location for our NRI to see if we can find any protected species.
 - Request a copy of the conservation subdivision.
 - Make recommendations to provide setbacks to the wetlands.
 - Reply to e-mail from concerned citizen
 - Conservation subdivision has been suggested.
 - No wetland laws for us to use to prevent the project even though we pushed for one that could have been used to help restrict this project.

NRI Meeting (next meeting)

- OC soil and water will provide maps.
 - Kevin will contact
 - Just 1 large road and tax map plus one large aerial view.
 - Some 13x19 versions to hand out to individual.
- Mike will bring Clark’s maps.
- The NRI development guideline documents prominently mentions that all data “must be based on reliable and accepted sources of information”
 - How does information from individual citizen’s meet this criteria?
 - It is probably useful, but it must be verified by others.
- Reviewed handout created by Kate.

- Authorized everyone to handout and distribute as they see fit.
- Kevin will contact the original author to see if he can get a summary to handout.
 - If Kevin cannot get a summary, then Mike will create one.

Future Projects

- Tree cover – Mike will investigate / spearhead.
 - Initial research has been completed and presented.
 - This project will be rejoined once some other already in progress and/or higher priority projects are better under control.
- Sidewalks – Sal will investigate / spearhead.
- Reduction of pollutants in storm water runoffs
- Pace on-line course for land use. Everyone should complete.

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Mike. Seconded by Sal. 9:05.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 3 page meeting notes.
- Sal – 7 copies of a 4 page Agenda.