

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 05/22/06

Begin

7:35 pm

Attending

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

Review of Previous Meeting Notes

- Minutes were not reviewed due to this being a public meeting to discuss the Natural Resources Inventory.

Official Business

NRI Meeting

- Only one volunteer (Kate's husband Ed) and one other visitor (Paul from the Wallkill Valley Times).
- Reviewed Mike's handout for the meeting. It probably would have been very useful if any volunteers had participated.
- Kevin thinks that Dan from the Orange Water Authority will be able to help us get started with the GIS and what data is already available.
- Some discussion of how to enter GIS data and how the database works.
- Joint meeting with Montgomery in early June to meet with the consultant and discuss how to work together to get started.
- Review and discuss some sections of the "Scheduling" checklist from Pg 17 of the "NRI: A Guide to the Process"
 - Review existing NRI data and maps: identify gaps and outdated data.
 - Maps from Clark are from Orange Water Authority and are probably reasonably accurate and up to date.
 - However, the maps have a disclaimer on the bottom that says "accuracy not guaranteed".
 - Maybe get graduate students from SUNY New Paltz or others that can help develop the map data and the GIS database.
 - Kevin will reach out to various sources of GIS assistance
 - Mike expressed concern over data "verification and validation".
 - Develop work plan and determine maximum and minimum scale requirements for information.

- Several discussions on scale, accuracy and its effect on the usefulness of this data.
 - Establish funding
 - Inform public about inventory project (the who, why, what, how, when).
 - Mailing to entire town?
 - When to send? Some sentiment for summer, other for fall.
 - How much money to spend for the mailing?
 - Send one early to just “let them know” and a second in the fall to say “OK, let’s get started”.
 - Need to find if the town will pay the bill for mailing the postcards?
 - How will people contact us?
 - Mostly through e-mail.
 - Can also have them call Kevin’s office.
- General plan
 - Next meeting to develop a work plan
 - Second meeting to inventory existing data, discuss data structure, etc.
 - Divide into a separate committee / subcommittee
 - Kevin will draft a letter to other town departments to see if they want to participate.

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 Kevin. Seconded by Kate. 9:25.

Copies:

- Mike – 35 copies of 2 page NRI Meeting Agenda and Process Description.