

# **TOW Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Notes**

**Meeting of 07/12/04**

### **Begin**

7:30 pm

### **Attending**

- Nina Guenste
- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite
- Patricia Owen
- Jon Paul Heurich
- Mike Leary

### **First meeting**

Introductions, exchange of phone numbers, etc.

### **Official Business**

- Nina Guenste elected Chairperson and Mike Leary elected Secretary by unanimous vote.
- Future meetings scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

### **Discussion Topics**

- General discussion of the Conservation Commission's purpose, objectives, responsibilities, authority, etc. No definitive conclusions at this time. Several documents on the law filed with the state, examples of other town's Conservation Commission's charters, etc. distributed for review. This topic needs more individual research and thought and therefore this discussion will be continued at further meetings.
- General discussion of types of information that may be readily available to the commission for creating a catalogue / inventory of the resources in the Town of Wallkill ("TOW"). Resources were defined to include not only natural resources, but also historical resources, cultural resources and human resources. Several concepts for obtaining documentation assimilated by others were discussed. The consensus of the group was to initially obtain as much previously assimilated information as possible before determining the need for additional information. Members volunteered to investigate various information sources. See the list in the *Assignments* section of this document.
- General discussion of the importance of developing a good working relationship with the Town Board, the Zoning Board, the Master Plan Review

Board, Planning Board and other groups within the town's bureaucracy. Members of the various town boards will be invited to future meetings to discuss ways that the Conservation Commission can best co-ordinate activities and maintain a good working relationship with the other groups. Ms. Guenste will schedule the attendance of members of other TOW groups at future meetings.

- General discussion of how to involve the people of the TOW in the commission's activities. A letter(s) to the editor of the Times-Herald record, a page on the TOW website, providing an e-mail address to contact the commission, etc. were discussed. No specific actions were initiated at this point until research of the facilities available through the TOW website are better understood.

### **Assignments for the next meeting**

- Nina Guenste
  - Official letter of recognition to the state DEC.
  - Co-ordination of Master Plan Review Committee member attendance at the next meeting.
  - Investigate available sources of information on vacant land and farms.
- Salvatore LaBruna
  - Development of a letter to editor of the Times-Herald Record to announce the commission to the public.
  - Investigation into the creation of an e-mail account for the public to contact the commission.
  - Investigate the resources available through the TOW's website.
- Claude Braithwaite
  - Research into educational resources for the primary purpose of helping the commission to develop electronic maps of the town's resources.
- Mike Leary
  - Contact Dan DePew to obtain information on the town's parks and recreational facilities.
  - Contact the state DEC to obtain protected wetlands maps.
- Patricia Owen
  - Contact Dorothy Ingrasia to obtain information on the town's historical sites.
- Jon Paul Heurich
  - Investigate sources of information on the town's cultural resources.
  - Contact the Orange County Conservation Commission and other town's Conservation Commission to their solicit guidance on starting the commission, information sources, potential pitfalls, etc.

### **Adjourned**

9:15 pm.