

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 08/09/04

Begin

7:42 pm

Attending

- Nina Guenste
- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite
- Patricia Owen
- Jon Paul Heurich
- Mike Leary (arrived late, approximately 8:30)

Review of Previous Meeting Notes

- Nina read the minutes. Nominated for approval by Pat. Seconded by Nina.

Official Business

- A short presentation of his groups functions and capabilities was given by Mr. Kevin Sumner of the Orange County Soil & Water Conservation District.
- A detailed question and answer session was held between the attending members and Mr. Ed Smith of the TOW Water & Sewer department concerning the Village of Goshen well permits (NYDEC Application # 3-3352-00273/00001). See the attached supplement "Questions with Replies from the Ed Smith Interview, 080904".
- Following the discussion with Mr. Smith, the commission discussed how it should officially respond to the well permits. The final resolution to this issues was delayed until the meeting of 08/23/04, however the following key points should be emphasized in any official commission response:
 - The Village of Goshen has followed all required procedures and protocols in generating the well permits and testing for the wells' potential impact on the local aquifer.
 - The drawdown testing showed little to no impact upon the local aquifer and/or local residential wells with standard testing procedures.
 - While the drawdown testing is sufficient for local aquifer impact assessment, it does not provide any projections as to the long term impact upon the TOW's long term water supply.
 - The commission has neither the expertise, the resources, or possibly the authority, to fully investigate this issue. However, we do wish to express our concern that, to the best of our knowledge, no agencies of the various

local governments are attempting to project the long term water supply capabilities of the local aquifer(s).

General Discussion Topics

- Claude presented information gathered concerning local educational resources that could be access by the commission for assisting in various projects.

Review of progress from assignments of previous meeting

- Nina Guenste
 - No official letter of recognition was sent to the state DEC yet because of the TOW Conservation Commission is listed as committee instead of commission in some documents. The letter is drafted and will be sent once the committee / commission confusion is rectified.
 - Additional information on the NYSDEC application for the Village of Goshen well request (see the *Official Business* section) was distributed and discussed.
- Salvatore LaBruna
 - A proposed letter to the editor was reviewed and approved for release to the Times Herald-Record.
- Claude Braithwaite
 - Claude presented information gathered concerning local educational resources that could be access by the commission for assisting in various projects.
- Mike Leary
- Patricia Owen
 - List of cemeteries
- Jon Paul Heurich

Assignments for the next meeting

- All
 - Prepare to discuss an official statement on the Village of Goshen well permits.
- Nina Guenste
 - Call Tom Davis at Co-operative Extension to obtain information on active farms.
 - Co-ordination of Master Plan Review Committee member attendance at a future meeting.
- Salvatore LaBruna
 - Publish the letter to the editor.
- Claude Braithwaite
- Mike Leary
- Patricia Owen
 - Ongoing work on researching historical building
- Jon Paul Heurich

Adjourned

10:15 pm.