

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 10/24/05

Begin

7:35 pm

Attending

- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite – Not attending
- 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

PDR

- The letters went out on Saturday, 10/22/05.
 - However, we were 3 copies short of having enough letters to send one to everyone on the list.
 - Sal will take care of getting the additional copies and also obtain an additional copy for our records.
- The information and application form will also be on the website soon (before the next town board meeting).

Hiring of Secretary for the Commission

- Will she do functions other than taking meeting notes?
 - Brief brainstorming produced very few tasks that could be off loaded to her.
- The general consensus is that the funding could be better used for other purposes.

Planning Board materials

- None available for this meeting.

Budget for our commission?

- We don't know if we can get the town to give us a budget, but we should apply for one anyway.

- We should summarize our expenses over the last year as a baseline to submit to the town board.
- Mike will take responsibility for creating an expense report / budget proposal.

Mr. Lippert has been invited to a future meeting. Issues that various commission members would like to discuss with him include:

- Tree trimming along the side of the road.
- Spraying along the sides of the road.
- Storm water management.
- Storm water medallions for drains.
- Pat's historic tree on Brown Road.
- Why are all roads widened so much? Can't we have some "country lanes" instead of making all roads into "highways"?
- Well testing near the landfill.
- Rail trail.
- Tree grant.
- Kate will call him prior to each meeting to remind him that he is invited to attend.

Future Projects

- Tree cover – Mike will investigate / spearhead.
 - Mike's initial report of progress.
 - Mostly website investigation.
 - Guideline for developing and evaluating tree ordinances.
 - Phytosphere.com
 - Funded by the USDA Forest Service
 - Suggest we start with an inventory.
 - Grant money is available to purchase trees.
 - Middletown, Goshen and Walden have already done some work in this area.
 - We will contact someone in those towns to see how they proceeded.
 - Middletown has a specific tree committee.
 - Goshen is done through the Parks and Recreations department.
 - ToW has a Parks and Recreations department.
 - Sal will contact them to see if they have ever done any research into acquiring funding for tree planting.
- Sidewalks – Sal will investigate / spearhead.
- Reduction of pollutants in storm water runoff
 - Storm drain disks – plastic disks that gets applied with epoxy to the catch basin printed to say "don't dump, this drain empties into the "X" river / stream".
 - Alerts people that the drain does not go into the treatment system, goes directly into the streams.
 - Town is supposed to be mapping the storm drain systems anyway so we could leverage this information to determine where to place them.
 - We will take the lead and try to get community groups (boy / girl scouts?) to assist with placing them.

- Pace on-line course for land use.
 - If we all go on-line take the course and pass the tests then we can get certified.
 - All attending agreed that this was a great idea and volunteered to participate.
 - Sal will send the website link to everyone.

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Mike. Seconded by Kate. 8:45.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 2 page meeting notes.
- Sal – 6 sheets of Agenda notes plus 55 copies for PDR mailing.
- Kevin – 4 sheets of labels for PDR mailing.
- Sal also made several copies of documents for town officials, but didn't have an exact count at this time.