TOW Conservation Commission
Meeting Notes

Meeting of 10/25/04

Begin

7:45 pm

Attending

- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite
- Patricia Owen – Not attending
- Jon Paul Heurich
- Kevin Sumner
- Mike Leary

Review of Previous Meeting Notes

- Minutes were handed out and read individually. Nominated for approval by Jon. Seconded by Sal.

Official Business

- Introduction of Kevin Sumner.
- Review of Golden Triangle public hearing.
    - Potential traffic congestion was the big concern that was emphasized at the hearing by both our members (Nina, Sal and Jon all spoke at the meeting), the public in general and members of the planning board.
    - The planning board appeared to be leaning towards requiring the developers to guarantee Phase 2 as a condition for approval of Phase 1 (again because of traffic congestion / routing concerns).
    - We will send no additional official correspondence on the project.
    - We will stay involved when the site plan is reviewed.
    - Individuals are encouraged to submit additional input to the planning board during the 10 day written extension.
- Gary Lake, head of the planning board, will be invited to a future meeting to discuss co-operation between the planning board and the conservation commission.
- The storm water management presentation from the DEC was discussed for the benefit of members who were not present.
    - We need to obtain a copy of the summary of the Wallkill land use laws and zoning laws. Kevin will e-mail Shawn Nolan to request a copy.
    - Can we be the "lead agency" to incorporate the new storm water management laws into the TOW land use laws and zoning laws?

        - Sal will investigate.
- Tetz / Phillipsburg asphalt plant
    - This project has a long and complicated history. (See the newspaper articles provided by Sal which provide a general history of the project). It was originally planned for Crystal Run. The town rejected this site. Tetz sued the town and won. The town compromised on a "better location". However, the new location is near the Wallkill river. Local residents sure Tetz and the town over the new location. The new location was upheld by the courts. The project is now moving into the environmental review stage. The DEIS is at the Thrall Library reference desk.
    - Kevin. Take whatever alliances present themselves. Town of Goshen. Wallkill River Task Force. River Keeper.
    - Action Plan:
        - Ask for a 30 days extension.
        - Ask for our copy of the DEIS.
        - Review the DEIS by dividing among the commission members at the next meeting.
- Election of a new commission chairman
    - Mike nominates Sal. Kevin seconds. Everyone present votes for Sal.
    - Sal will send an official note to the town board.
- Need another member to replace Nina
    - Sal will include this in the chairman election note.
- Kevin. Preservation of few remaining farms in town
    - Only 2 active dairy farms remaining in town
    - One is on Stage Road, owned by Mr. Smiley.
    - There is a property bordering the farm that is currently zoned industrial (former gravel pit) that the owner wants to change to residential.
    - Residential properties bordering the farm could be detrimental to the farmer because residents tend to complain about the manure, spraying, etc.
    - Do we want to take a position? Keep the farmer from being squeezed out.
    - General consensus is yes, but we need to see what the new master plan has already targeted for zoning on this property.
- Open space inventory.
    - The town's planning department has done one recently.
    - But, it is very broad brushed, not detailed enough to tell a good story, especially on farms.
    - We need a more detailed open space inventory.
        - How to pay for? Grant? Town pays for?
        - Better trying to do ourselves with help from other agencies such as the water authority?
        - Is the master plan review considering open space? Can we get a copy of the master plan, even if not in a final state?
- Can we get an ID card?
    - Useful for walking on potential development properties to ascertain environmental impact of the development.
- Will we get a budget?

- Sal will explore.
- We should be able to get at least some budget for general office needs (copying, mailing, etc.).

Adjourned

8:55