

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 12/12/05

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 Kate. Seconded by Pat.

Official Business

- PDR Program
 - We haven't been able to get in touch with supervisor to finalize how to implement the PDR.
 - Councilman King is concerned that if we don't act quickly then the application may be delayed until after the filing deadline has passed.
 - We are contacting Rep. Annie Rabbit for assistance because she was involved with the program in Warwick.
 - Kevin has already done soil surveys on the Smiley farm.
 - The Smiley farm has excellent soil.
 - Based upon soil quality, the Smiley farm would be an excellent candidate for funding.
 - There is a town grant writer in the department of public works who could assist with the grant proposal process.
 - Next steps?
 - Form a review committee (town board must create) and a review process to determine which property is the best to submit for funding (it is believed that only one property other than the Smiley farm applied prior to the deadline).
 - The review committee ranks the properties and makes a recommendation to the town board.
 - Where do the matching funds come from?
 - Should be from town, but rumor is that Smiley may pay some themselves.
 - Orange County Land Trust may help raise additional funds.

- We could volunteer to be the review committee.
 - We will go to the next working session of the town board to solicit support.
- Not only get permission to submit the application but also get a commitment that they will support with attorney time, possible matching funds, meeting the time schedule, etc.
- Need a schedule / plan to take to the meeting.
- Kevin doesn't think a resolution from the town board is absolutely necessary, but it does strengthen the application.
- We should also get a statement from the town board that they are willing to have the town be the easement holder and use the standard state easement form.
- Golden Triangle
 - FEIS was received Monday 12/7/05.
 - Changes to storm water prevention based upon our previous comments.
 - Work session on 12/28/05 at 6:00 pm.
 - On the planning board schedule for 1st meeting in January.
 - Mike will review and get comments to Sal in time for the work session.
- Shawangunk Overlay
 - Sal has discussed “problems” that we see with the law.
 - Too much oversight required by us.
 - We are specified as the “enforcement” entity.
 - We are not qualified and do not want that responsibility.
 - Sal has spoken to Dan Depew and he has stated that is not the intent.
 - Dan is willing to make some clarifications and changes.
 - Sal submitted our concerns to Dan and town board.
- Ball / TS issue
 - We submitted our report to the town board prior to previous meeting.
 - Mr. Smith said it was an informed and fair report.
 - John King asked the board to follow our recommendations.
 - Increase limited was enacted by a 3-1 vote with 1 abstaining.
 - See Sal's e-mails from just after the town board meeting for additional information.

Future Projects

- Tree cover – Mike will investigate / spearhead.
 - Kevin brought in copies of urban forestry grant from City of Middletown.
 - Mike took the bundle to incorporate into his investigation.
 - Mike brought copies of “Planning for an ordinance” from the Phytosphere website.
- Sidewalks – Sal will investigate / spearhead.
- Reduction of pollutants in storm water runoff
- Pace on-line course for land use.

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Sal. Seconded by Kevin. 9:15.

Copies:

- Mike – 7 copies of 4 page meeting notes.
- Sal – 7 copies of 1 sheets of Agenda.
- Sal also made several copies of documents for town officials, but didn't have an exact count at this time.