

TOW Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Meeting of 12/13/04

Begin

7:35 pm

Attending

- Salvatore LaBruna
- Claude Braithwaite
- Patricia Owen
- Jon Paul Heurich
- Kevin Sumner
- Mike Leary

Review of Previous Meeting Notes

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

Official Business

- Kate Fox attends first meeting.
- Kate's discussion of the Master Plan Review Committee. From the draft summary vision statement.
 - Original planner. Ferrandino & Associates. Not responsive to the committee. Release in early summer.
 - Map 16, last proposal before Ferendino was letting go.
 - Vision for town board to be incorporated into a zoning law.
 - Review draft from current planner.
 - Vision for each area, open, infrastructure, etc.
 - Clear trends in public forums, open space, gateways.
 - Town has interviewed 6 planners, narrowed it down to 2.
 - More of a living document. By law, more than a map. Collection of documents. Environmental issues.
 - Commission. Collect info. Recommended to the planning board.
 - Planning board doesn't exercise their power. Afraid it isn't clear cut. Put more power into the zoning laws.
 - Open space. Wetland. Natural resource inventory. Farmland preservation, land trust.
 - Knows people at the county planning. Can have them come and speak to us.
 - Division of open habitat. Blocking animals access.
 - Wetlands. Endangered species. Wood turtle. Salamanders. Inventories.

- Protecting stream banks. ??? number of feet from stream bank. 100 for Dan's shawagunk plan.
- Review of ascetics of
- Native non-invasive plants.
- Shade tree committees. Preserve native,
- Environmental inventory before clearing land.
- No time limit from approval to build. Properties subdivided in the 80's just being build on today.
- Timber harvest permit plan.
- Moratorium extension.
- Planner will write the new zoning law. Based on recommendation of the master plan review?
- Kevin. Orange water will review. But, town's don't ask. Charge for it, but can be passed along to development.
- Public review phase in Feb?
- Need for consolidation of information. Maps with overlays for wetlands, public facilities, scenic vistas, etc.
- County planners can extrapolate census data.
- Wetland mappings. Kevin says soil maps. DEC has maps. Fed has no maps, done on a case by case basis. Town law to require buffer, smaller size, more mitigation. Package with Dan's shawangunk stream bank protection.
- Who enforces? This is where the language of the law needs improved the most. Wallkill has 1.5 building inspector.
- Comprehensive planning process. Should provide teeth for planning.
- Higher density, clustering. Clustered sewage and wells. OC is against. Just because stuck in time.
- Town sewer capabilities are overloaded. New bond approved to expand.
- Review proposed zoning maps.
- Review Sal's Open Space Inventory, Part I, Agricultural Resources
 - Map is already available. In meeting room.
 - Start research with benefits of agriculture, other town's plans, etc.
 - Use recreation fund to buy easements for open space. Kev – needs millions not thousand to buy easements on large space.
 - Ask accessor for properties receiving agricultural exemptions.
 - Best resource is a USDA. But, not digitized yet. Kev says their agency is waiting.
- John Ward says that we will have an individual page on the town's website.
- There is a copy of all meeting notes in the commission file in
- Open space inventory
 - Mike will begin work on
- Priorities for future meeting (after Phillipsburg project review)
 - Master plan review committee meeting
 - Open space inventory (Mike will start, Kevin will assist)
 - Start with getting examples, Warwick, Goshen
 - Do a section at a time

- Farm resources as a priority

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Kevin. Seconded by Mike. 9:35.

Expenses

- Sal – 7 copies of 5 page Meeting Agenda.
 - Sal – 173 pages of various documents.
 - Mike – 7 copies of 2 page meeting notes.
 - Kevin – 44 page town law digest from Pace.
 - Kevin – 21 page memo from Pace to the town board.
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- Kate's e-mail: camp@freespiritnaturecamp.com

Research for good documents. Warwick and Montgomery.