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Town of Vernon

Open Space Task Force

Minutes of Monthly Meeting May 10, 2010

Meeting Location: Vernon Police Station Community Room West Rd

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M.
Present: Russ Kunz, Tom Ouellette, Ann Letendre, chairperson

1.0 Approval of Minutes
Draft minutes of April 12, 2010, were approved; motion by Ouellette, second by Kunz.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:
Talcott Property – Talcottville Gorge No new activity
Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm No new activity
Petrin property – No report
Tankerhoosen LLC Parcel Update – No new activity
Gunther Property – No new activity
Additional Open Space Parcel Evaluation – No additional parels under consideration, except follow-up on confluence of the Tankerhoosen and Hockanum Rivers to be considered for inclusion in the OS Plan. Resources in the area will need to be researched first. RBV data is taken on the Tankerhoosen side of the confluence each year.

2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding - Update
2.2.1 Local Funding – no change
2.2.2 State Funding – Letendre reported no major change during legislative session.

2.3 Conservation Commission Activities –
2.3.1 Variable-leaved Milfoil in Valley Falls Pond – Tom Ouellette reported that he spoke with George Knoecklein, and George will do a training session for volunteers to learn how to identify and remove fanwort this summer. The herbicidal treatment for the milfoil and fanwort at Valley Falls Pond and Walkers East will be done in June.
2.3.2 Other – Discuss Tankerhoosen Greenway east of Tunnel Road – Tom Ouellette reported that the Conservation Commission was receptive to consideration of a project to do a natural resource inventory along the Tankerhoosen River riparian areas owned by Ed Clark, pending approval from Mr. Clark to access the property, and pending identification of a funding source.

2.4 Update on 2009 Goals

2.4.1 OSTF Membership – We are down to four members. There have been no appointments forthcoming.

2.4.1.1 Resolution of OSTF status w/ Town, fill vacancies – Letendre noted that the OSTF was down to four regular members. This dire situation needs to be resolved. Ann feels part of the lack of action on the part of Administration is the confusion of the OSTF authority – that is, whether or not it is a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. Ann will try to get time with Administration to address it.

2.4.2 Public Education – Town Council presentation, local access presentation, publication of booklet, articles for Horizon, RR – Ann will call Joe Grabinski to do a piece for his cable program.

2.4.3 Support of Plan of Conservation & Developmen

Russ Kunz and Ann Letendre attended the May 6 meeting of the PZC to present inputs from the OSTF on Booklet #4, Conservation. Ryan Goad presented comments from the Conservation Commission. Comments from both groups had been summarized in separate memos for the PZC as well as Planimetrics and the Town Planner. The OSTF asked to provide further inputs to the Natural Resource and Open Space Vision Statements and Possible Strategies, as well as on the full POCD document. The PZC said they would welcome the input and reaffirmed that that the planning was an iterative process. OSTF members then discussed the Vision Statements and Strategies – and changes that might be considered. Tom Ouellette will draft a summary of the Natural Resources comments, and Ann Letendre will draft a summary of the open space comments.

2.4.4 Sponsorship – hikes, other? None

3.0 New Business – no new business

4.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM, motion by Kunz, second by Ouelette.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Letendre, Co-chairperson