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Town of Vernon

Open Space Task Force



Minutes of Monthly Meeting January 9, 2012

Meeting Location: Vernon Police Station Community Room, West Rd

Present: Tom Ouellette, Russ Kunz, Ginny Gingras, Ann Letendre, Chairman

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Motion to add agenda item, email query from Daniel Pullium of TicketNetwork regarding POCD Open Space Plan, as related to 60 south Frontage Road parcel. Motion by Russ, second by Tom, motion carried.

1.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2011 were approved. Motion by Tom, second by Russ, motion carried.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:

Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm.

Appraisal is needed as a first step to determine interest from the Strong family, and potential for OS grant through the DEP program. Ann will arrange meeting with Brian, Ginny and the Mayor to brief him on status, and to request funds for the appraisal.

Petrin property – No new action.

Tancanhoosen LLC Parcel Update – DEEP has not made any public notice of the acquisition. OSTF would like to know final amount of acreage that was transferred, cost, and future stewardship plans. Ann reiterated that it was the wish of Tom Mason and family that the property be named after his grandfather Bissell, and that perhaps the two state parcels could then be combined and named Bissell-Belding Management Area. Ann will try to contact DEEP to see if this would be feasible.

Gunther Property – no new activity

Additional Open Space Parcel Evaluation – No further action.

2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding - Update

2.2.1 Local Funding – no change

2.2.2 State Funding - The state bonding commission has approved the \$5M for funding for the 2012 state Open Space Program.

2.3 Conservation Commission Activities Report – (Ouellette)

2.3.1 Aquatic Invasives – Tom reported that he has written an article for CACIWC's newsletter on the project, at their request. The CC is awaiting results report from Dr. Knoecklein in order to assess needs for 2012 budget request. Key issue to address would be follow up on fanwort treatment in Walker Reservoirs.

2.3.2 Vernal Pools – The CC is trying to get approval for access to examine potential pools on Bamforth Road. George Arthur will assist.

3.0 New Business –

3.1 Discussion – Melding of CC and OSTF. Considerations for a new structure, membership, meeting time / location, goals for 2012.

Tom and Russ reported that the CC is in agreement that combining the two groups makes sense, and they would like to pursue it. Ann will talk to CC staff agent, Shaun Gately, and will advise Mayor of the desire of both groups to combine, and the reasons why.

3.2 Discussion – Response to email from Mr. Pullium, TicketNetwork

Tom reported that he had received an email from Daniel Pullium, Government Relations Director of TicketNetwork, asking about the open space designation for 60 South Frontage as cited in the revised POCD . Tom and Ann prepared a response memo and forwarded it to Len Tundermann and Shaun Gately to reply to Mr. Pullium.

Mr. Pullium's question was in regard to the location of the 15 acres that is cited for open space preservation on the parcel. Tom and Ann summarized their reply to Pullium. They noted that the OS Plan has listed the parcel in the 1998 OS Plan and in the 2005 update of the OS Plan, and that it involved only the approx. 15 acres of wetlands along the Tankerhoosen. Ann will send a copy of the memo to the OSTF.

4.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson