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Town of Vernon

Open Space Task Force



Minutes of Monthly Meeting September 12, 2011

Meeting Location: Vernon Police Station Community Room, West Rd

Present: Tom Ouellette, Ginny Gingras, Ann Letendre, chairperson

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

1.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the special meeting of June 6th were approved. July and August meetings were cancelled.

2.0 Old Business

2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:

Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm - No new activity.

Petrin property – No report. Ann will ask George for his contacts.

Tancanhoosen LLC Parcel Update – Ann reported that she spoke with Beth Brothers, DEEP. A new well was dug for the property owner whose well was on the DEEP land; the water is being tested. A closing is expected by the end of September.

Gunther Property – Ginny reported that TAC is continuing to prepare to acquire the property, and is applying for 501c(3) status. She reiterated that TAC is not interested in the portion of the parcel fronting on Route 30.

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 - no change

2.3 Conservation Commission Activities – (Ouellette)

2.3.1 POCD – Tom reported that the CC had received a response from PZC on its extensive comments to PZC on June 9th. Some were incorporated, some were not.

2.3.2 Aquatic Invasives – Tom reported that a successful workshop and walk on the Tankerhoosen was held; and that only one sample of aquatic invasives was found.

2.3.3 Vernal Pools – Nothing new. Tom reiterated that no pools were surveyed last spring. The CC sent letters to about 8 property owners with potential pools for permission to test them. They received, one OK, 1 refusal, and no response from others.

2.4 Update on 2009 Goals

2.4.1 OSTF Membership – No new action.

2.4.2 Public Education – Town Council presentation, local access presentation, publication of booklet, etc – No new plans

2.4.3 Sponsorship – hikes, other? None planned at this time.

3.0 New Business – Discussion – Draft POCD

A letter was received from the PZC in response to the OSTF comments presented at the June 9th public hearing. The OSTF reviewed each of the ten responses made by the PZC. The OSTF concluded that it was very important to re-state four points / concerns at the October 13th hearing:

- 1) Cross reference of subdivision regulations to POCD: The PZC acknowledged that the regulations need to be revised to refer to new maps and data sources, but we need to emphasize that the basic text and construct of the subdivision regulation should not be changed.
2. The four parcels that were removed from the Open Space Map should be reinstated on the map. They all front on a river (the basis of the OS Plan); the OS Plan specifically states that the portion near the river is the key portion of the parcel that should be preserved.
3. The text on page 44, second paragraph, needs resolution. The POCD must incorporate the OS Plan, not just the “OS Plan without the parcels in the business zone”. Inclusion of the Open Space Plan document, either by reference or as an appendix, should be done.
4. The recommendation in the 2001 POCD (pg 77) that a procedure be developed that allows CC input on an application that is on a priority area should be repeated in the 2011 POCD. The point of this procedure was to ensure protection of the natural resources that are in the priority areas.

4.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson