

Town of Monroe Conservation Commission

Monroe, New York

May 19, 2010

A regular meeting of the Town of Monroe Conservation Commission was held in the Monroe Senior Center, 101 Mine Road, Monroe, NY, on May 19, 2010 at 8:00 PM.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.

Attendance: John Ebert (Chair); Robert O'Neill; Ward Brower III; Ed Dolis; Audra Schwartz; Brian Bezkorowajny.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- March minutes were approved as amended.
- No April meeting was held, due in part to some confusion about venue. The Senior Center has now been established as the new regular meeting place for the MCC.
- Chairman Ebert reminded all members to sign and submit their 2010 Code of Ethics forms to the Town.
- Chairman Ebert transferred a Town of Monroe Employment package to the secretary.
- A motion was passed approving the procurement of a Munsell Soil Chart, and a 3½-inch hand auger.

CONSERVATION BUSINESS

- Chairman Ebert announced, and distributed flyers for, a "Pattern for Progress" symposium to be held June 14th and offered MCC support for any members interested in attending.
- A discussion was held regarding the Commission's response to public concerns; in general it was agreed upon that the MCC will focus on responding and working with the public when they bring issues and concerns before the Commission.

Town Board

- Prompted by a recent Round Lake Association appearance before the Town Board, a discussion regarding the control of aquatic weeds in Round Lake yielded a general consensus that the MCC needs to start proactively working with the Town Board and the Public to make progress with alternative forms of weed control (instead of continuing to treat the lake with known carcinogens).
- A discussion of the Tree Code resulted in all members agreeing that the MCC would like to work with the Town Board to strengthen the Tree Code.
- Member Brower suggests that the MCC should also start working with the Town Board to remove loopholes and strengthen the local wetlands code.

- A review of Introductory Local Laws No. 1-3 of the year 2009 is ongoing and the MCC will continue working on formal comments as necessary. The MCC feels that these local laws should be evaluated against the goals of the Master Plan and that there is too much being covered in this set of local laws to properly evaluate each section against the Master Plan. The MCC plans to contact the Town Board to determine the status of these pending laws.

Planning Board

- Planning Board Chairman Mary Bingham was in attendance to discuss the proposed development of Round Lake Island. She requested that the MCC prepare and submit comments to the Planning Board in time for the Tuesday, May 25th Planning Board Meeting. Members Ebert and Schwartz agreed to draft the comments.

New Business

- C. Amanuel, a Monroe-Woodbury Junior, presented a proposal to research the effectiveness of using Algae Turf Scrubbers in surface water to naturally degrade toxic organic contaminants. A general discussion ensued and the MCC was receptive to offering assistance. However, a motion to support the research project was tabled pending a better-defined scope-of-work to include time and material requirements as well as proposed sampling locations. B. Bezkorowajny has agreed to act as a mentor if needed.
- A discussion was held about retention ponds and whether the MCC should start performing inspections of retention ponds within the Town; Member Dolis believes many of them are not functioning properly.

Old Business

- A discussion was held about resuming the MCC practice of performing “site walks” at proposed construction/development sites; Member Brower agreed to evaluate the planning status of various site proposals in order to create a priority list for performing walks as well as organize an inventory of site plans.
- There was unanimous agreement concerning the need for an “open space” inventory for the Town. Members discussed proposing to the Town Board that a committee be formed to look into.
- Some follow-up is needed with Mr. Rosaschi who approached the MCC on March 23, 2010 regarding the clear-cutting of trees adjacent to his property (for Bald Hill Estate well testing).
- The Streamwalk Website with Google Earth capabilities is still not functioning properly.

Clarification and Corrections to Minutes from MCC of March 23, 2010

Re: Planning Board

MCC wishes to thank Planning Board member Mr. Finnerty for bringing to our attention the mistakes and omissions in our minutes of March 23, 2010. It should have been stated:

Planning Board

Concerning Quick Check gas station (proposed, Rt. 17M). The Commission has expressed concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest arising from the fact the one prominent Planning Board member lives in Water District #8, another prominent member has a close relative who lives in Water District #8, and the influential Planning Board engineer also lives in Water District #8.

The MCC feels there is a conflict of interest having the Quick Check developer pay for the much needed and expensive repairs to a section a Water District #8 which only benefits a few (approximately 144 members) while the negative impacts of Quick Check will be felt by the whole town (over 10,000 people). These Planning Board people who will benefit directly or indirectly should reclude themselves from involvement/voting on this issue due to ethical considerations.

Chairman Ebert adjourned the meeting on a motion at 9:25 PM.

Scott Walnicki, Secretary