

Town of Monroe Conservation Commission

Monroe, New York

March 23, 2010

A regular meeting of the Town of Monroe Conservation Commission was held in John DeAngelis Hall, 15 Lake Street, Monroe, NY, on March 23, 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- February minutes were approved as amended.
- Chairman Ebert transferred recent revisions of site plans to Members Brower and Dolis for: Round Lake Island, Ridge Top Estates, Lands of Belmonte, Lands of Schwartz and Horowitz, and Walton Terrace Estates.
- The Commission is continuing its efforts to fill the remaining membership position.
- A recycling policy was agreed upon for obsolete and/or superseded site plans.
- The Commission needs space for archive and storage and will inquire with the Town for possible alternatives.
- Chairman Ebert reminded all members to submit *2010 Code of Ethics* forms to the Town.

CONSERVATION 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.
- Chairman Ebert is planning to attend an OCP Federation meeting on March 31st. The Federation is seeking ideas for how they can assist local conservation commissions.
- Members Brower and Dolis expressed interest in attending a CAC meeting being held March 31st.
- Chairman Ebert asked members to consider representing the Town of Monroe for the NYSDEC Neighborhood Watch Program.
- There was unanimous agreement concerning the need for the Commission to create an “open space” inventory for the Town. Members will research options for completing an inventory.

Town Board

- A review of four local laws currently pending Town Board approval is ongoing and the MCC will continue working on formal comments as necessary.

Planning Board

- Concerning Quick Check (proposed, rte. 17M): the Commission has expressed concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest arising the fact that three Planning Board Members live in Water District No. 8. They argue that any costs associated with repair, improvement, or reconfiguration of Water District No. 8 affects the whole town but only benefits a few; therefore, the MCC feels that those Planning Board Members should have recused themselves from involvement/voting on this issue due to ethical considerations.

New Business

- Florence and Peter Rosaschi attended the meeting to raise the Commission's awareness of their concern regarding site work being performed on the proposed Bald Hill Estates development. The specific issue regards the clear-cutting of approximately 50,000 ft² of dense woodlands in a 25-foot swath extending 2,500-feet west from Route 105 for the purposes of performing groundwater well testing. Particularly troubling is the fact that the location chosen for the testing was less than 30-feet from land previously cleared in support of the Larkin Drive Extension. The question arises as to why the point of access could not have come from the Larkin Drive Extension (possible answer: there is a stream preventing access). Regardless of what could have been done, the MCC feels that this incident underscores the need for a stronger Tree Code; one that closes the loopholes that are potentially exploited by developers to clear cut woodlands free of ramifications and at odds with the Town of Monroe Comprehensive Plan.

Old Business

- There was unanimous agreement that Mr. Decker should be invited to a future meeting. Mr. Decker is the teacher under whom Joe Horski completed his research study regarding TDS in the stream originating from Placid Pond. The Commission feels that a mutually beneficial arrangement could be established for coordinating future student projects with MCC objectives.

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

Scott Walnicki, Secretary