

TOWN of ELMA CONSERVATION BOARD
1600 Bowen Road Elma, NY 14059

MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 26, 2008

I The Regular Meeting of the Town of Elma Conservation Board, hereinafter referred to as the ECB, was rescheduled due to adverse weather conditions and held on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 PM in the Conference Room at the Elma Town Hall, 1600 Bowen Road, Elma, NY.

PRESENT:

**Chairman Bryant Zilke
Member Raymond Boy
Member Laurence Daley
Member Kenneth Schroeder
Alt/Recording Secretary Diane Rohl**

ABSENT:

**Member William Jackson
Member Marc Schneckenberger**

I MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2008

***Motion to Approve Minutes Made by Raymond Boy and Second by Kenneth Schroeder/
Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.***

II CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Land Inventory

The ECB has completed a listing of all properties within the Town of Elma that are twenty acres or more. Included in this listing are names of owners, addresses, number of acres, frontage, and property type and description. The ECB discussed the importance of having a complete inventory, not only of properties but other information regarding elevations, wetlands, creek corridors, etc. It was decided that continuing the inventory process will be tabled until Diane Rohl investigates whether there are opportunities for the ECB to secure the services of an intern from a local college or university. She will also find out details about any special software requirements.

B. Land Inventory Data Analysis

Raymond Boy, working in conjunction with the Town Assessor is compiling information regarding the amount of open land within the Town of Elma. He is also compiling this kind of data for other towns to perform a comparative analysis. This should be completed by the March meeting.

C. Status of PDR Grant 2006

Bryant Zilke reported that a meeting scheduled with Mr. Janiga had to be cancelled. There is no further information available.

D. Review of PDR Grant 2007

Diane Rohl will obtain a copy of this grant that was submitted by the Town but did not receive funding approval for this year's round of farmland protection grants from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. It was determined that most likely the grant was not approved due to a combination of increased competition, amount of funds available and focus on larger farms in other areas of the State. The ECB plans on trying again in 2008.

III. CRC MEETINGS

Bryant Zilke and Diane Rohl informed the ECB of the progress being made by the CRC and the goal of the Committee to have a draft document of the new commercial codes to the Town Board by March. At this time, a proposal from the ECB for a land conservation set aside from each new developer has not been included as part of the revisions.

IV MANAGEMENT PLAN – CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Due to the absence of William Jackson, both the Management Plan and the discussion of State and Federal Tax Laws relating to Land Conservation Easements were tabled until March.

V POLICY ON GRANTS

A. Establish Grants Committee

Because of the increased competition and decreased funding by NYS, the ECB decided it would be a good idea to expand the investigation of grant possibilities for land protection and conservation – farmland as well as residential and commercial. Diane Rohl and Laurence Daley volunteered to serve on the Committee. One of their first charges will be to analyze past grants for weak and strong points. They will also begin to explore opportunities to participate through the various State and Federal Agencies and organizations.

B. Appoint Second Liaison for Grants

At the suggestion of the Michael Nolan, Town Supervisor, the ECB decided to appoint a second liaison for Town Grants involving the ECB. The person would assist in communications and substitute at meetings when Chairman Zilke, Project Manager, was not available. Working directly with the Town's Grant Writer would continue to be the sole responsibility of the Project Manager.

Motion to appoint Diane Rohl as Assistant Project Manager made by Raymond Boy and Second by Laurence Daley.

Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

VI STATUS OF BDR FOR SPRINGBROOK SHORES

Town Attorney Phyllis Todoro informed Diane Rohl that she had completed the review of the Baseline Data Report (BDR) on Springbrook Shores and would be issuing a letter of approval shortly. The next step will be to submit it to the Town Board for final approval; and then file it in the Erie County Clerk's Office to be an official part of the deed on record.

VII UPDATE ON LAND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A. New Legislation

Diane Rohl informed the ECB that she had prepared materials for meetings with local legislators, requesting their support for enabling legislation to allow the Town to proceed with the current Land Conservation Easement Law as written. Michel Nolan met with Senator Dale Volker and Diane Rohl met with Erie County Legislator Kathy Konst and Assemblyman Mike Cole. Assembly Cole agreed to draft legislation and work with Senator Volker and Assemblyman Mark Schroeder to introduce bills in the NYS Legislature. They stated that land conservation to prevent sprawl was an important issue and they felt legislation could be passed in this session. Remy Orffeo, Planning Director for the Town of Orchard Park has agreed to work with the ECB as needed on this important issue.

B. Draft Letter to Applicants

There are currently seven Land Conservation Easement Applications on hold awaiting the resolution of the terms within the Town's Land Conservation Easement Law. The ECB approved sending out individual letters, advising them of the progress being made towards that end.

VIII STATUS OF THE RE-TREE WNY PROGRAM

Funding for the replacement of trees lost during the "October Surprise" storm is being provided at the National level by Keep America Beautiful and the National Arbor Day Foundation; at the State level by the NYS DEC and at the Local level by Keep WNY Beautiful (Affiliate of the National Organization). The Re-Tree Program is a five year program of tree replacement in right-of-way areas or on municipal properties. Funding will be on a shared cost basis 50-50 with volunteers from the municipality providing the labor to plant and maintain the trees. The ECB will investigate further and subsequently make a recommendation to the Town Board if applicable.

IX FYI

Building Inspector's Report -None
Code Review Committee Minutes 1/10/08, 1/24/08, 1/31/08, 2/7/08
Elma Planning Board Minutes 1/15/08
Elma Town Board Minutes 1/16/08, 2/06/08

X *Motion to Adjourn at 8:48PM Made by Raymond Boy and Second by Laurence Daley. Unanimous.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Rohl,
Recording Secretary