

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Board Meeting
July 29, 2009, 4:45 p.m.
Room 150, New Science Center, Saint John's University

MINUTES

Board members present: Peter Dwyer, Mike Leedah

Staff present: Tom Kroll, Bill Fahrney, Jenny Kutter

1. Annual conference update: set the date—Jan 30, Feb 6 or Feb 13

Stan Tekiela agreed to be the keynote speaker again this year—requests earlier dates.
Sarah Gainey requests including a ProjectWET teacher training strand at conference this year.
Hosting the conference in February gives staff more time to prepare after holidays.

Board agrees to confirm February 6 for the 2010 conference.

Tom Kroll will chair planning committee this year—will put a call for board members and volunteers interested in joining the committee.

Peter will work on 2nd annual Initiative Awards.

2. CAPX2020 update—Maps of proposed routes are up on CapX2020 web site. All proposed route options avoid the Avon Hills for multiple reasons:
 - Crowding at Albany
 - Crowding at city of Avon
 - Crowding at Spunk Lake
 - General geography of Avon Hills

Two proposed options go north of I-94, 1 option goes south.

Next steps: The state takes the three power company suggestions plus any suggestions from open houses and decides which suggestions get Env. Impact studies. The state will make a final decision to approve a route after the EIS.

AHI would potentially have a place at a working group to narrow down route suggestions if one is formed. The board should think about who would be that delegate.

3. 1st Conservation Easement completed and announced—Bob and Bonnie Thomsen

Bill and Tom have had really great visits with more interested landowners and are currently looking more into Saint Wendell township.

It took one year to complete the first easement. The grant covers 6-10 easements that need to be completed in the next 2 years. Tom is working with the land trust to improve time constraints so as to stay within the grant timeline.

4. County Comp Plan update—

The county and townships are working more with Saint John's to have clearer plans/communication for Saint John's future development (and how it would affect local roads, traffic, etc.)

Other county updates tabled to next meeting.

5. Other business

Forest Stewardship Plan funding got approved at the state. The state will be ready in September. If funding doesn't get used up this winter, the board should look into a strand or session on forest stewardship at the Feb. conference.

Fall newsletter (October?) could include articles on:

- Forest stewardship plans
- Annual conference announcement
- CapX2020 updates
- Others?

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 4:45 p.m.