

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

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Lowell Rushmeyer, Karen Bobeldyk, Allan Davisson, Mike Leedah

Staff Present: Tom Kroll, Jenny Kutter, Bill Fahrney

1. Set date for 2010 conference and annual meeting.

Aim for the second or third weekend in January again—the 23rd or 30th. Mike will contact Stan Tekiela to see if he is available again, we'll try to work around Stan's schedule if possible.

2. Developing an orderly growth plan in Collegeville and Avon Townships—utilizing consulting funding from LCCMR grant (Steve Plantenberg or Allan Davisson)

There is a proposal from Brian Ross at CR Planning to work with Collegeville and Avon townships to develop/improve orderly growth plans. The consulting could use up to \$8,000 of LCCMR township money.

- Specific work needs to be done and may be controversial, so it would be good to have outside expertise to help.
- A formal plan will be made soon so the townships can make a formal request for grant funds to be made available.
- TDRs may be big in county ordinances, it would be important to have a plan for dealing with them on the township level
- Collegeville/Avon would like to have orderly growth plan work done before county finishes ordinance work
- Collegeville—how to work with Saint John's growth plans as well?

3. Ordinance writing help from Kris Larson, MN Land Trust (Tom Kroll)

Kris Larson is willing to help draft ordinance language for the overlay district. His fee would come out of the same money from LCCMR (\$4000 per unit of government).

- His help would be beneficial for both county and townships
- May be helpful to get more opinions at later stages in planning/writing?
- How much is Brian Ross asking for orderly growth consulting?
- How much township money would be leftover for ordinance writing?
- County needs to define what's needed in committee before proposing other consulting, but may be open to Kris Larson's expertise
- Allan and Steve will present the option of Kris' availability to the county to help get ideas down in a concrete, orderly fashion.

4. Newsletter—next publication date, article topics/authors

It's been a while since our last publication and we should try to get the next issue of the AHI newsletter published within the next month or so. Article ideas authors???

- 1st conservation easement complete (Sarah Strommen, MLT)
- Announce next conference date and Stan's keynote (Jenny)
- CR 51 update (Jody Teich)
- Legislative update—Green Acres fix, Conservation acres addition (Jeff Johnson)
- Other ideas: maple syruping (Carlsons), county park, Avon Area Arts, county ordinance work, powerline update

Jenny will contact potential writers.

5. Overlay district follow-up (Steve Plantenberg)

Steve wasn't present, but Tom had a question:

Using the LESA score on ag lands to allow 1 home per 10 acres could be in conflict—1 per 10 is exactly what we don't want and Avon Hills land is almost exclusively ag. Allan will double check on the wording, but doesn't think there is a problem of this nature within the Avon Hills. Perhaps Brian Ross misspoke at the last meeting or Tom misheard?

Avon Hills wording will be specific separate laws similar in nature to shoreland overlay.

6. Conservation easement follow-up (Tom Kroll)

17-plus meetings have been held with various landowners—a variety of backgrounds and levels of interest.

At one point prioritizing lands was discussed: doesn't seem to be necessary at this stage—all who have come in meet the minimum criteria and we only really have 2-3 in process at the same time. We will revisit prioritizing when slots fill, as necessary, to complete the last easements available from the LCCMR grant.

Are we on the right track by not discussing names of people who've expressed interest or met with Tom?

- AHI consensus is that it is good to respect landowner's privacy until the easement contract is complete. The decision is personal and it is good to keep it out of public discussion until complete.

7. Other business

Birding Day, Saturday, May 9—in the morning at the Arboretum, in the afternoon with the MOU in the greater Avon Hills area. Sign up on the Arboretum web site. Bill will make sure Arboretum site is connected with MOU.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 27 4:45 p.m.