

Meeting Minutes - York Conservation Commission

Date: February 13, 2013

Attending: Mike Mahlman, Robert Tilley , Jeff Normandin, Gregory Baker, student observers Ralfeo Mata and Gabriel Mata

- 1- January 23 meeting minutes were voted on and approved.

- 2- We reviewed the recent legal training conducted by Town Attorney Durward Parkinson attended by Mike, Ana, and Gregory.
 - a. We reviewed the 'ten rules for serving on a municipal board' presented at the training:
 - i. Act like a judge and but don't get caught up with the power.
 - ii. Know and follow the law.
 - iii. Respect the due process rights of all parties.
 - iv. Keep all meetings open to the public except legal executive sessions.
 - v. Do not engage in "ex parte" contact with parties.
 - vi. Step aside when you have a conflict of interest.
 - vii. Stick with the agenda.
 - viii. Develop a site walk procedures.
 - ix. Keep good records and protect the record.
 - x. Issue detailed findings of fact and conclusions.
 - b. Other takaways from the training:
 - i. Be aware all emails will be part of the public record.
 - ii. Site walks are public meetings.
 - iii. 'ex parte' conversations are OK about process but not substance.
 - iv. The CC is advisory but rules still apply. The process must be followed correctly.

- 3- We voted again (4-0) on the request from the Pine Ledge engineer to not be considered for the conservation easement holder.

- 4- We reviewed and voted (4-0) to present the following questions and concerns to the Planning Board on 2/21/2013.
 - a. Town regulation issues- 50% or more of buildable area must be part of the open space, more units in the cluster design than conventional design, no easement holder to define space and rules, lots don't meet 200' frontage requirement.

- b. Impact concerns- Water quality, insufficient buffering, too many open space abutters, septic and well radius, need for independent assessments on water and environmental impacts.
 - c. Other concerns, some that have been waived already.

- 5- We discussed community education initiatives. We still need input from Ana and Priscilla before choosing which ideas to focus on in 2013. Below are the ideas we collected:
 - a. Develop 'glossary' to post on web page
 - b. School project(s) including many other town organizations, Mt A, Center for Wildlife, Earth Day, Movies, birding as a educational vehicle
 - c. Connect with and publish articles in the York Weekly
 - d. Educational signs, maps, rules to be posted at Town parks and tourist sites. Funding could be available through the Megug grant.

- 6- Bob will get more information on the Town's potential purchase of the Davis land and the also the status of the York River Wild and Scenic designation. Bob will report back his findings to the group so we can determine how we should get involved in both efforts.

- 7- Our next meeting will be **Wednesday 3/13** at 7 pm at the senior center. During the first part of the meeting Steve Burns will present to the team an overview of the MS4 changes coming to York.