

12/11/07 Conservation Board Minutes

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

DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING –December 11, 2007

I The Regular Meeting of the Town of Elma Conservation Board, hereinafter referred to as the ECB, was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 7:20 PM (due to a conflict with the Christmas Holiday) in the Conference Room at the Elma Town Hall, 1600 Bowen Road, Elma, NY.

PRESENT:

Member Raymond Boy
Member William Jackson
Member Marc Schneckenberger
Member Kenneth Schroeder, Substitute Chairman
Alt/Recording Secretary Diane Rohl (Massaro)

ABSENT:

Chairman Bryant Zilke
Member William Massaro

II MINUTES OF November 27, 2007

Motion to Approve Minutes Made by Raymond Boy and Second by William Jackson.
Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

III DOLLARS & SENSE OF PRESERVING COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The ECB viewed the video on the importance of planning in a community that wants to control growth, preserve or create its character, and conserve green space. It was pointed out that planning is good for business, good for the environment and good for the community.

The moderator said that a community “gets better one building at a time”. He also said that there were three important questions that needed to be asked:

- Where do we put it?
- How do we arrange it?
- What does it look like?

One of the most poignant points made was that 80% of our buildings have been built since World War II. Asked was: “What are we building today that our children will want?”

Motion to encourage other Boards and organizations to view the video and provide guidelines to the ECB, Made by William Jackson and Second by Kenneth Schroeder. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

IV PREPARATION FOR THE JANUARY MEETING

A list of questions drafted by a few of the members was reviewed by the ECB. After some discussion it was decided to forward them to the Town Supervisor with an invitation to attend the ECB’s January Meeting. The Board has explored a variety of land conservation programs and would like some input from the Supervisor before proceeding any further.

V NYS SMART GROWTH CABINET

Diane Rohl reviewed a Press Release from Governor Spitzer’s Office dated December 10th outlining the role of a newly formed cabinet. Its basic role will be to determine how to best discourage sprawl and promote smart land use practices. With a fund of \$2 million dollars the Governor created three region-specific smart growth initiatives: Lower Hudson Valley, the Adirondacks and the Central Catskills. It is hoped that as the initiatives are successful, they will branch out into other areas of New York State including Western New York.

VI SPRINGBROOK SHORES-LAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The Baseline Data Report (BDR) for the 160 (+-) acres of land in Springbrook Shores that is in a Land Conservation Easement Agreement between the Town of Elma and Marrano/Marc Equity has been turned over to the Town Attorney for review. The ECB will be requesting a copy of the Plan for the Nature Trails, currently in the Building Department. According to the guidelines established for Land Conservation Easements, it will be the responsibility of the ECB to monitor the land within the Land Conservation Easement to be certain that they comply with all conditions originally set forth in the

Agreement. The BDR will provide the basis for these reviews.

The ECB discussed the importance of land preservation and what needs to be preserved. They decided that a management plan would be needed. A question was posed as to whether Marrano/Marc Equity is going to be responsible for this. Prior to any decision being made, the Plan will be reviewed by the ECB and further investigation will be done.

VII PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS GRANT

Questions were raised regarding the status of the PDR Grant since the formal appraisal on the Janiga Farm has been completed. Diane Rohl reviewed a few of the new regulations governing PDRs that she learned at the most recent workshop in Lockport. She said that NYS Agriculture and Markets told the municipalities that they may request reimbursement for expenditures prior to the closing of the grant; also that the process has been streamlined by their Department and that the municipalities will be required to complete all of their procedures and paperwork in about half the time it has taken in the past.

Due to the absence of Chairman Zilke, it was suggested that Diane Rohl contact Supervisor Nolan as well as Chairman Zilke for any information on the Elma PDR and then report back to the Members.

VIII FYI

Elma Planning Board Minutes 11/20/07

Code Review Committee Agenda 11/28/07

Code Review Committee Minutes 11/28/07

IX ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 PM made by Raymond Boy and Second by William Jackson.
Motion unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Rohl,
Recording Secretary

