

12/12/06 Elma Conservation Board Minutes

TOWN of ELMA CONSERVATION BOARD

DRAFT - MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING û December 12, 2006

I The re-scheduled Regular Meeting of the Town of Elma Conservation Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Elma Town Hall, 1600 Bowen Road, Elma, NY.

PRESENT:

Chairman Fred Streif

Member Raymond Boy

Member William Jackson

Member Glenn Reinhardt

Member Marc Schneckenberger .

Member Bryant Zilke

Alternate Kenneth Schroeder (Substitute for William Massaro)

Recording Secretary Diane Rohl

ABSENT:

William Massaro

II MINUTES OF 11/28/06

Agreement to amend the Minutes to summarize the presentation by the WNYLC.

Motion to Approve Minutes as amended by Fred Streif and Second by William Jackson.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

III GRASSLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

Bryant Zilke gave an overview of the application process he had to follow to comply with the requirements by the federal government. After many hours of research and almost forty months of effort, he was finally awarded a Grassland Reserve Grant by the Federal Government on approximately 93 acres of his farm. The grant guarantees his farm will forever remain agricultural. The regulations are very strict in regard to planting and harvesting, and grazing land for cattle. The farm will be closely monitored by the NRCS.

IV COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAM

William Jackson, primary author of the Power Point presentation, reviewed its content and said they could be used selectively, depending on who was presenting the program and what they wanted to say to their audience. Mr. Jackson also mentioned that he needed to incorporate more pictures into the program. A sample list of organizations to which the ECB could contact to inquire about a presentation would be:

Elma Conservation Club (ECB has already received a request.)

Elma Kiwanis

Elma BusinessmenÆs Association

Elma Senior Citizens

Elma Veterans of Foreign Wars

Elma Historical Society

It will be necessary to have at least one or two volunteers who are willing to take the time to present the program to the public. Mr. Jackson agreed to complete the presentation by the January Meeting and the ECB members would bring a list of any additional organizations that might be interested in learning about the Land Conservation Easement Program. It will be determined at that time who will be available to present.

Motion to review program again at the January Meeting by William Jackson and Second by Fred Streif.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

V ROLE OF ECB & OTHER BOARDS from RCP û 3RD REVIEW

Following a brief discussion, it was decided that the contents of this document could be presented in a variety of ways. Due to the lateness of the hour it was decided to table any further discussion until the January Meeting.

Motion to Table by William Jackson and Second by Bryant Zilke.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

VI REVIEW OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT APPLICATION

The ECBÆs first Conservation Easement Application was received this week. Referring to the procedural guidelines already developed by the ECB, the Application was reviewed for completeness. Subsequently Glenn Reinhardt and Ken Schroeder were appointed as Lead Members to visit the named property and complete an Evaluation Criteria Instrument as developed by the ECB in earlier meetings. They are to report back

to the ECB at the January Meeting for review and further action if appropriate.
Motion to appoint Glenn Reinhardt and Ken Schroeder as Lead Members for this particular application by Fred Streif and Second by Bryant Zilke.
Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

VII POSTER FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

The ECB approved the latest revision to the Conservation Easement poster and requested that an order be placed with Kenneth Schaff for fifty posters. These are to be divided up amongst the ECB members and posted in businesses around the Town.
Motion to Approve by Marc Schneckenberger and Second by Raymond Boy.
Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

VIII PROPOSED LETTER TO LANDOWNERS OF 10+ ACRES

The ECB accepted the proposed letter composed by Diane Rohl. It will be sent to landowners together with a pamphlet briefly describing the land conservation easement program; and notifying them that there will be a follow up call from an ECB member as to whether they have any interest in applying.

Diane Rohl will use the list of properties previously distributed to identify landowners and to send the mailing. The initial mailing would be for properties over twenty acres. It is hoped all mailings could be accomplished by February. It was suggested that Diane Rohl check with the Assessors Office to determine if they could provide more information regarding addresses and mailing labels.

Motion to Approve by Fred Streif and Second by Bryant Zilke.
Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

There was further discussion regarding the need for a current inventory of properties in the Town of Elma distinguishing the farmlands from the developed lands from the vacant lands. If the Town determines by Resolution that they wish to participate in another round of the PDR Grants from NYS Agriculture and Markets, it will be necessary to identify potential farmlands that would qualify for inclusion.

It was suggested by Raymond Boy that an article should be written for the Elma Review regarding the PDR Program.

IX OLD BUSINESS

A. An Abstract of the recently awarded PDR Grant for \$216,000 was distributed to all

ECB Members for their information.

B. The Flyer that Diane Rohl had designed for future mailings was printed by Kenny Schaff and sample copies were distributed to the ECB Members. Copies have also been placed in the Town Clerk's Office for the public.

C. A meeting to begin the process of implementing the PDR Grant was cancelled and will be rescheduled for Mr. Nolan, Supervisor, Mr. Zilke, Liaison/Project Manager and Mrs. Miner, Grant Writer.

X NEW BUSINESS

A. There has been some discussion on the parts of the Marilla and the Elma Conservation Boards regarding the scheduling of a joint meeting. The ECB is awaiting further information.

B. A letter was received from the Town of Orchard Park Planning Department advising the Town of Elma about a new subdivision on Milestrip Road before their Planning Board; and its potential impact on an area that abuts the proposed subdivision designated as protected in the Town of Elma. This will be reviewed more fully at the January Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Rohl,
Recording Secretary