

TOWN of ELMA CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – May 22, 2007

I The Regular Meeting of the Town of Elma Conservation Board, hereinafter referred to as the ECB, was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Elma Town Hall, 1600 Bowen Road, Elma, NY.

PRESENT:

Chairman Bryant Zilke
Member Raymond Boy
Member William Jackson
Member William Massaro
Member Glenn Reinhardt
Member Marc Schneckenberger
Member Kenneth Schroeder
Alt/Recording Secretary Diane Rohl

ABSENT:

None

OTHERS:

None

II MINUTES OF April 24, 2007

Motion to Approve Minutes as amended by Raymond Boy and Second by William Massaro. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

III COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAM

A. Power Point Presentation – Elma First 5/24

William Jackson, Raymond Boy and Diane Rohl will be presenting a program overview of economic and population data in support of land conservation easement programs. Other forms of land protection and funding methods will also be discussed with the group.

Details of a land conservation easement program in perpetuity were discussed amongst the members. Some of the questions raised were:

- Where should the applications go to first?
- Should there be referrals to other land conservation organizations?
- Who should decide this?
- What are the potential costs for new conservation easements?
- Is the ECB authorized to spend money for attorneys, surveys, etc.?
- What are the future costs for monitoring, legal fees?

B. List of 20+ Acres

Bryant Zilke informed the ECB that the next round of PDR Grant Applications from NYS Agriculture and Markets will be out in June and due in September. William Massaro provided a list of landowners who have twenty acres or more. The list will be culled to determine those properties that might qualify for the next PDR Grant. Bryant Zilke will make some phone calls to people on the List. He suggested making follow up calls to landowners from the List of 50+ Acres who received letters to see if anyone might be interested in participating in the PDR Grant. He will also get a list from the Assessor of properties that have agriculture assessments as another source for follow up calls. William Massaro will use the 20+ and 50+ Lists for an inventory and as a data base for who was contacted and when.

William Jackson suggested having a Town Meeting in the fall regarding all of the conservation programs. The lists of property owners could be used as a source for sending out invitations. Raymond Boy suggested that another type of program could be outright purchase of property by the Town.

Motion made by Raymond Boy and Second by Glenn Reinhardt that William Massaro maintain an inventory listing and contact information.
Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

Motion by William Jackson and Second by Glenn Reinhardt to assign the task of having Bryant Zilke call farmers and/or owners of agricultural land to determine if any would be interested in participating in the next round of PDR Grant Applications. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

IV LAND CONSERVATIONS EASEMENT APPLICATIONS

- A. LCE #007 was received and the Applicants will be notified of receipt and status regarding the ECB investigating alternative funding methods.

Motion made by Marc Schneckenberger and Second by Glenn Reinhardt to ascertain if one of the LCE Applicants would be interested in applying for a permanent land conservation easement (in perpetuity) allowing for federal and state tax incentives only. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

- B. The Draft Letter from Diane Rohl on alternate LCE funding methods was accepted pending further information on assessments and taxes.

Motion made by William Jackson and Second by Raymond Boy to accept the letter on Alternative Programs and to include revised data on assessments and taxes when available from Bryant Zilke. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

- C. There was no information from the Committee on Alternative Programs.

- D. Added to Agenda – Abstract from Holding Our Ground distributed by Bryant Zilke.

V ELMA PDR GRANT UPDATE

Bryant Zilke indicated that there was a meeting to review what is required by NYS Agriculture and Markets for the PDR Grant process and final report. In attendance were: Town Supervisor Michael Nolan, Town Grants Writer Connie Miner, Town Attorney Phyllis Todoro, WNYLC Robert Besanceney, NYS Agriculture & Markets Consultant Jason Engel and Chairman Bryant Zilke.

VI DRAFT LETTER – PRELIMINARY & FINAL SITE PLANS

The ECB made a few minor revisions to the letter as drafted by Diane Rohl.

Motion made by William Jackson and Second by Raymond Boy requesting Diane Rohl to revise the letter and email it to Bryant Zilke for signature and mailing to Town Supervisor. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

VII ECB SUB-COMMITTEES

Marc Schneckenberger distributed a hand out with a list of suggestions for land protection programs and the role of the ECB. Also included were recommendations for establishing various sub-committees of the ECB. This will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

Motion made by William Jackson and Second by Raymond Boy to commission an ad-hoc committee comprised of Marc Schneckenberger as Chairman, William Jackson and Raymond Boy to redefine the mission and goals of the ECB; and to accomplish this task, freely communicate through email and/or on the telephone. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

VIII DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Motion made by Marc Schneckenberger and Second by Glenn Reinhardt to table until a later date yet to be determined. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

IX FYI – HANDOUTS

- A. TVGA Training Programs
- B. Building Inspector's Report April 2007
- C. Planning Board Agenda May 15, 2007
- D. Town Board Minutes April 4, 18, and May 2

X ANNUAL REPORT

It was determined that the Chairman should have the responsibility of identifying the accomplishments of the ECB for the past year. Bryant Zilke will draft a report and forward it to Diane Rohl to complete.

XI STATUS OF SPRINGBROOK SHORES BDR

A letter approved by the ECB at the last meeting was sent to Marrano/Marc Equity notifying them of the ECB's responsibility to monitor properties with Conservation Easements. Members of the ECB will be visiting Springbrook Shores in order to prepare a Baseline Documentation Report.

Motion made by Bryant Zilke and Second by William Massaro to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



**Diane Rohl,
Recording Secretary**