

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

MINUTES OF MEETING –May 27, 2008

I The Regular Meeting of the Town of Elma Conservation Board, hereinafter referred to as the ECB, was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:05 PM in the Conference Room at the Elma Town Hall, 1600 Bowen Road, Elma, NY.

PRESENT:

**Chairman Bryant Zilke
Member Raymond Boy
Member Laurence Daley
Member William Jackson
Member Marc Schneckenberger
Member Kenneth Schroeder
Member/Recording Secretary Diane Rohl**

ABSENT:

None

GUEST

James Wzykiewicz, Town Engineer requested to be placed on the Agenda to briefly review the new EPA Stormwater Phase II Regulations. He showed a map of Elma and the location of outfalls, identifying 51 points in this MS-4 area. (Areas are determined by density of population. Only certain areas in Elma are identified.) It was noted that in some cases it may be necessary to go on private land. These outfalls will require monitoring and subsequent preparation of annual reports of these activities. Kerry Galuski, bookkeeper in the Town Supervisor's Office, has been trained on the new software necessary to complete the reports. Mr. Wzykiewicz suggested that either the ECB conduct the monitoring or that the ECB develop a plan to have others perform the work. Since he had brought no regulations or written information, the ECB decided to investigate the program and its requirements before making any decision as to whether they will be involved in this mandated program required of the Town.

I MINUTES OF March 25, 2008

***Motion to Approve Minutes Made by Laurence Daley and Second by William Jackson.
Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.***

MINUTES OF April 10, 2008

***Motion to Approve Minutes Made by Laurence Daley and Second by William Jackson.
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0. Motion Carried.***

II CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. According to Chairman Zilke, the Supervisor reported that the Appraisal on the Janiga Farm has been reviewed and is now in the hands of the State.

B. Diane Rohl reported that she was given the 2008 application brochure for the NYS Environmental Excellence Awards by Supervisor Nolan. He inquired as to whether the ECB would be interested in applying. The deadline is June 20, 2008. She suggested that the educational power point presentation developed by the ECB on the various conservation programs may qualify. The ECB is planning on making further enhancements to the program. Mrs. Rohl believes that this could be tied into the Re-Tree WNY Program and/or with Iroquois Central Schools who are looking to expand their curriculum in the environmental conservation area.

Based on the criteria within the grant, the ECB Grant Committee will review this opportunity for potential grant funding for the 2009 fiscal year as an example of "projects used to promote collaboration among all levels of government, businesses and non-profit entities (and local citizens) to improve the quality of life".

C. Chairman Zilke handed out the schedule of grant meetings hosted by NYS Agriculture and Markets for Round 12 for the Farmland Protection Implementation Program. The WNY meeting is in Batavia on June 24th.

III LAND INVENTORY

A. The Land Inventory & Mapping Process is being coordinated by William Jackson in conjunction with the Office of John Whitney, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Arrangements are being made for interns from surrounding universities to develop a system of land parcel identification and map layering to indicate wetlands, streams, parks, etc. using the ARC/GIS and ESRI software. The ECB will receive periodic reports on students' progress. This project will be at no charge to the Town.

B. The Open Land Report was developed by Raymond Boy. Entitled The Preservation of Open Space: A Conceptual Cost/Benefit Method, its objective was to preserve 10% of the total acreage in the Town of Elma as open and undeveloped space for perpetuity through the purchase of development rights (PDR). By identifying the total acreage in Elma, estimating the purchase price per acre with a PDR, estimating the annual cost to the Town for a 30 year \$15,000,000 bond, and estimating the population growth, he arrived at a tax impact per resident of \$3/year. The ECB will be discussing the basis for the assumptions and validity of the rationale behind the concept at a future meeting. It is the intent of the ECB to offer to the Town Board alternative methods of preserving open space.

IV REVIEW OF CRC PROGRESS

A summary of Town of Elma Zoning Code Changes, Zoning Maps – Existing and Proposed and the Non-Conforming Use Proposal were included in each Member's Agenda. Diane Rohl reviewed the highlights of the previous CRC meetings and reminded the ECB of the Public Informational Meeting on June 11th at 6:00 PM.

V PROPOSED CONSERVATION EASEMENT LEGISLATION

Diane Rohl updated the ECB on the status of proposed legislation to enable the local land conservation easement law to be implemented. Drafts are in the hands of Senator Volker, Assemblyman Mark Schroeder and Assemblyman Michael Cole. Assessed Valuations that could result in property tax reductions will apply to all taxing entities. A letter will be mailed to current applicants notifying them of the progress by the legislators. It is expected that legislation will be passed before June 23rd, the end of the legislative session. Diane Rohl also suggested that it would be good to have a map identifying all LCEs in the Town of Elma.

VI STATUS OF BDR - SPRINGBROOK SHORES

It was decided that as soon as the Town Board approved the Baseline Documentation Report, the ECB would schedule to meet at Springbrook Shores to examine and record the condition of the property specified within the Land Conservation Easement Agreement between Marrano/Marc Equity and the Town of Elma.

*Motion made by William Jackson and Second by Kenneth Schroeder to visit the Springbrook Shores within the next four weeks.
Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion passed.*

VII REPORTS ON WORKSHOPS – Tabled until the June 24th Meeting.

- A. Conservation Subdivisions (4/22/08) - Marc Schneckenberger
- B. DEC Regional Open Space Consv Plan (5/7/08) – Wm Jackson

VIII REPORT ON Re-Tree WNY/ELMA

Diane Rohl, acting as Municipal Coordinator for the Re-TreeWNY Program, gave a brief report of the activities involved in the planting of forty-three trees at the Town Hall. She said that a group of thirty volunteers assisted in planting on May 3rd; and ten volunteers in mulching on May 10th. She also commended the efforts of Wayne Clark, Highway Superintendent.

IX RECOMMEND POLICY CHANGE

Motion made by Diane Rohl and Second by Bryant Zilke to recommend to the Town Board that the policy of duplication of Minutes for the ECB Agenda be discontinued when they are available for viewing on the Town Web Site, with the exception of the ECB Minutes.

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

X FYI

Highlights of Federal Farm Bill

Building Inspector's Reports – March & April 2008

Code Review Committee Minutes – 3/27/08, 5/08/08

Elma Planning Board Minutes – 3/18/08, 4/15/08

Elma Town Board Minutes – 3/19/08, 4/02/08

XI ADJOURN at 10:45 PM. Motion Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



**Diane Rohl,
Recording Secretary**