

Avon Hills Executive Committee Minutes
October 14, 2004 4:30-6:30 pm
New Science Center, Saint John's University

Chris Schellinger, Mark Conway, Ernie Diedrich, Phyllis Plantenberg, OSB, Cliff Borgerding, Steve Plantenberg, and Tom Kroll were present. John Wittrock and Jennifer Buchentine were also in attendance.

Chris wants the group to spend more time on actions and less time on process.

Committees will remain in place, but will not be the focal point for now. We can grow into them as activities require.

One of the biggest benefits of the Avon Hills Initiative will be that encourages issue leaders to meet and talk about the topic.

Cliff B. The City of Avon has a Healthy Community Partnership (HCP) started and would welcome input on land use planning. Development is happening quickly around Avon. 3 big projects in the works now.

St. Joseph, Cold Spring, and Avon are all participating in Healthy Community Partnership projects. That may be a good way to integrate the rural –urban landscape issues.

There was a discussion of the proposed zoning ordinance changes in Stearns County.

The next full meeting of the Avon Hills Initiative group will be in November.

The following 3 resolutions were passed.

Resolution for Adoption by the Avon Hills Initiative

Open Space Planning and Protection Conference

WHEREAS there are a variety of new tools to assist in the preservation of the rural landscape; and

WHEREAS many landowners are unfamiliar about these opportunities; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Avon Hills Initiative and willing partners sponsor a conference, preferably before April 2005, on Land Stewardship / Rural Preservation topics including conservation easements, estate planning opportunities, the Healthy Community Partnerships in Avon, Cold Spring, and St. Joseph, opportunities for cooperation in the 4 affected Townships and the county such as zoning overlay districts.

Action taken:

Recommended by vote of the Executive Committee for adoption by the full group:

Motion passed executive committee
Chris Schellinger, Chair

Date: _14 October 2004_

Adopted by vote of the Avon Hills Initiative:

Chris Schellinger, Chair

Date: _____

Assigned to: _Sr. Phyllis Plantenberg and Mark Conway_

Scheduled completion date: ___March 2005_____

Resolution for Adoption by the Avon Hills Initiative

Zoning Ordinance Changes

WHEREAS the Stearns County Planning Commission has proposed a series of changes in the rules affecting rural land development; and
WHEREAS the intent of those changes is to encourage the retention of the rural landscape and provide flexibility to developers; and
WHEREAS a key affect of the changes could be to inadvertently create sprawling 13 acre home sites instead of the intended clustered developments; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED to empower the Chair to send a letter on behalf of the Avon Hills Initiative to the Stearns County Commissioners and Boards regarding the proposed zoning ordinance changes on open space and cluster development and to empower the Executive Committee to follow-up on that issue in subsequent meetings and letters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Avon Hills Initiatives membership strongly endorses the concept of protecting 80% of the land in an open space development

Action taken:

Referred to the Government Operations Committee to develop a resolution and reply that the entire Avon Hills Initiative can discuss and vote on at the next meeting.

Recommended by vote of the Executive Committee that Allan Davisson, Chris Schellinger and Tom Kroll prepare a letter to send to the County by October 18th to outline some of the concerns.

Motion passed executive committee
Chris Schellinger, Chair

Date: _14 October 2004_

Assigned to: _Allan Davisson_____

Scheduled completion date: _____Oct 18, 2004 and Nov 15, 2004

Resolution for Adoption by the Avon Hills Initiative

Endorsement Activities of the Avon Hills Initiative Group

WHEREAS the Avon Hills Initiative represents a diverse group of citizens and interested in rural land preservation and;

WHEREAS the group will likely endorse general policies regarding land use; and

WHEREAS reaching consensus on a policy position for a specific land use proposal could be difficult for the group; and

WHEREAS members may represent themselves or other organizations at any public meetings or otherwise speak out any time they please; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Avon Hills Initiative agrees to not endorse or oppose specific projects or developments as the Avon Hills Initiative group unless by-laws are created to provide provisions to that effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Avon Hills Initiative does agree to educate about the benefits of rural land planning and preservation in general, including at hearings for specific projects.

Action taken:

Recommended by vote of the Executive Committee for adoption by the full group:

__Motion passed executive committee__
Chris Schellinger, Chair

Date: __14 October 2004__

Adopted by vote of the Avon Hills Initiative:

Chris Schellinger, Chair

Date: _____

Assigned to: _____

Scheduled completion date: _____