

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee and Staff Meeting  
August 30, 2006 4:45p.m.  
Room 150 New Science Center, Saint John's University

Present: Bill Fahrney, Melissa Holm, Tom Kroll, Jackie Leedahl, John Maile, Steve Plantenberg, Lowell Rushmeyer

- 1.0 Update on Stearns County Comprehensive Plan –Steve S.  
**A new OS (other/special) zoning designation has been proposed. This designation would benefit land with historical and biological value among other things.**
- 2.0 Elections: one chairman candidate  
**Bill Fahrney as agreed to run for the AHI chair alongside Peter Dwyer. Ballots have been placed in the newsletter.**
- 3.0 Newsletter—Melissa H.  
**The newsletter has been printed and is in the process of being distributed. Jackie Leedahl's daughter Kenzie wrote an article on "What it means to grow up in the Avon Hills" which is featured in the newsletter. An event note for the 'Raised in the Hills Teen Art Exhibit' was also included in the newsletter as well as placed on the website.**
- 4.0 Schuman Lake Road project  
**The Schuman lake project is on the Avon Hills Website and was advertised in the newsletter. The project would like \$300 from the Initiative to cover part of the cost including horse rental for wagon rides the final day.**
- 5.0 Potential candidate for Efroymsen project—Tom K.  
**The job description is in the newsletter. Several people have expressed verbal interest in the position. Once the funding has been secured, the Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee will determine the selection process.**
- 6.0 Initiative Foundation funding update  
**The project is currently waiting for written approval from Cold Spring in order to proceed. Cold Spring wants us to meet them and give a presentation. We need to determine who will do this.**
- 7.0 Gift from Saint John's University  
**Br. Dietrich Reinhart has allotted the Avon Hills Initiative with \$5,000. The money is not an outright gift, but is available to be used to support Initiative projects when other funding is not available. Steve will write them a thank you when he receives their contact information.**
- 8.0 The Nature Conservancy "Conservation Action Plan"  
**The Nature Conservancy is instituting a Conservation Action Plan for the Avon Hills. Once completed, this will direct the activities of TNC in this area. John Maile of TNC, Hannah Texler of DNR, Jane Bennett of the Parks and Trails Coalition, and Tom Kroll of Saint John's are currently on**

**the committee. Others with conservation / Avon Hills expertise should contact John Maile to participate. This plan is only for the benefit of TNC and is not a public land plan.**

9.0 Additional items

**The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:45 to 5:45 pm. We will meet at the Collegeville Town Hall. The meetings are open to the public.**