

**Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee and Staff Meeting
October 25, 2006 4:45p.m.
Room 150 New Science Center, Saint John's University**

Present: Tom Kroll, Lowell Rushmeyer, Melissa Holm, Steve Plantenberg,

1. Update on Stearns County Comprehensive Plan –Steve S.
 - 1.1. A new OS (other/special) zoning designation has been proposed. This designation would benefit land with historical and biological value among other things.
 - 1.2. A phone survey of approximately 500 local people suggests that the community is generally in favor of increased recreational opportunities and that they are willing to pay for it. Allan summarized this sentiment as preservation with access.
Responses from public input meetings have been coming in. Geological information has also been presented. Steve felt that a sense of where they want to inter- and intra-county relations strengthened is beginning to be established.
2. Elections: one chairman candidate
 - 2.1. Bill Fahrney as agreed to run for the AHI chair alongside Peter Dwyer. Ballots have been placed in the newsletter.
 - 2.2. Ballots are currently coming in to the Arboretum office as well as at the Schuman Lake Road celebration.
Peter Dwyer has been elected to the chair of the Avon Hills Initiative.
3. Schuman Lake Road project
 - 3.1. 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.
 - 3.2. It was suggested that directions to Schuman Lake Road be posted somewhere for visitors. Allan moved to support the project with \$350 of initiative funds and Lowell seconded the motion.
Mark was unavailable to present on the success of the event but Steve felt it went well. Lowell registered a concern that the St. Cloud Times linked AHI with the road petition.
4. Potential candidate for AHI project—Tom K.
 - 4.1. 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.
 - 4.2. Allan proposed that 2-4 committee members should lead the selection process to provide continuity and perspective in the process.
There are currently four candidates applying for the position.
5. Initiative Foundation funding update
 - 5.1. 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.
 - 5.2. Allan and Tom have volunteered to give a presentation to the Cold Spring group.
Allan and Tom still need to present to the Cold Spring group. Mary Kroll finished up the proposal, which is currently being proof read.
6. **Schellinger/DNR Transaction**
The group expressed overall support and happiness for the Schellinger/DNR transaction.

Additional Items

7. A thank you letter has been sent to Abbot John and Br. Dietrich for the funds offered to AHI.
8. Collegeville town is being dis-incorporated to allow for continued development of the area.
9. Tom has been contacted by someone from the Stearns County Comprehensive Plan Review who has requested any maps, ideas, etc. put out by AHI. Tom referred them to the committee members.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for December 6th from 4:45 to 5:45 pm. The meetings are open to the public.