

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee and Staff Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2007 4:45p.m.  
Room 150 New Science Center, Saint John's University

Present: Cliff Borgerding, Allan Davisson, Ernie Dietrich, Peter Dwyer, Bill and Jean Fahrney, Melissa Holm, Jackie Leedahl, Steve Plantenberg, Lowell Rushmeyer, and Chris Schellinger

Lowell moved to approve the minutes from the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Bill seconded the motion. Motion approved.

1. Schuman Lake Road – Chris Schellinger and Mark Conway
  - a. Report on the Schuman Lake working group's activities to date  
**The group has determined that Rustic Road designation comes from the township. The next step will be to talk with Tim Haeg and get his opinion on how he thinks township supervisors would feel about this issue. Allan feels that they will respond positively.**  
**Current concerns about the designation include the requirement that the road must have less than 150 cars use it per day. The rules do not specify a time of year for conducting a study on usage frequency, which could be critical in this instance.**
  - b. Discussion of attached statement.  
**The statement establishes the formation of the Schuman Lake Road Preservation Committee (SLRC), whose primary objective is to achieve Rustic Road designation for the Schuman lake road. In also includes additional objectives.**
2. Update on Stearns County Comp Planning – Steve Plantenberg and Allan Davisson.
  - a. Work on authorizing language for Avon Hills Overlay District  
**Steve provided a copy of the language document for the committee to view.**
  - b. First draft of map for Avon Hills Overlay District  
**To date, Colledgeville and Avon Townships had completed a map of desired areas for a conservation overlay with estimates made in the first draft for St. Joseph and St. Wendel. Allan displayed a copy of the map for the committee to view.**
  - c. Other aspects of the comp plan  
**The Comprehensive Plan Review committee met with Todd Hollman from the Nature Conservancy and Tom Kroll to generate new ideas for the proposed easement. Examples include: that it should simply include a purpose; the means of fulfilling the purpose should be developed later; incentives should be developed first, then limitations.**  
**Steve felt that the overall response to the overlay from section meetings was positive and that the townships and county seem supportive and open. The support from local government and organizations should help support changes at the state level.**  
**Allan suggested that the “special incentives and additional standards” currently mentioned in the easement language would be a great area for a group like the Avon Hills Initiative to contribute ideas.**
3. Update on Colledgeville Township's passage of “green fund.”

**Peter shared that it had yet to be determined how 'green fund' money was to be used. Several committee members mentioned walking trails as a possibility.**

4. Update on grant from Initiative Foundation – Peter Dwyer (Tom Kroll will be out of town)  
**Melissa reported that Tom thought the requested money would be awarded shortly, but that we were waiting to get a \$5,000 match from The Nature Conservancy if possible.**

## **Statement of Purpose by Schuman Lake Road Preservation Committee (SLRC)**

**Created:** 9Dec06

**Revised:**

### **Schuman Lake Road Preservation Committee (SLRC)**

The Schuman Lake Road Preservation Committee is made up of residents, property owners, neighbors and supporters of Schuman Lake Road. We are a committee by declaration of the Avon Hills Initiative group, a large, grass roots group of constituents of the Avon Hills area.

### **Group Goals**

Our goal is to Preserve and Protect the current natural beauty, location and size of Schuman Lake Road in perpetuity.

### **Objectives towards accomplishing the Goal**

In order to accomplish this goal we have identified specific objectives to be accomplished.

A primary objective within this list is the designation of Schuman Lake Road as a Rustic Road under Minnesota State Statute. Receiving this designation will help in numerous ways to accomplish our objectives and overall goal. Most significantly is that it removes liability from the local road authority relative to the Rustic Road. A list of the specific objectives are listed below:

- A. Proactively involve all affected and interested constituents or friends of Schuman Lake Road in the preservation of Schuman Lake Road effort.
  - a.
- B. Have Schuman Lake Road receive a Rustic Road designation.
  - a.
- C. Schuman Lake Road should remain a gravel road. No paving of the road.
- D. Existing width of Schuman Lake Road should not be exceeded.
- E. Maintain existing location, route and path of Schuman Lake Road.
- F. Restrict maintenance of Schuman Lake Road to its current road bed, width location.
- G. Schuman Lake Road should not be straightened.
- H. No carving out of ditches, existing hillsides or exposing of rocks, tree roots, etc.
- I. All trees, brush shall remain along the road side, ditches, hillsides, etc. No cutting of trees or brush along the roadside unless mutually\* agreed that it is impeding traffic or safety. Mutually being, between the local road authority and our group.
- J. Maintain safe conditions for both vehicles and pedestrians as mutually agreed upon by the SLRC and the local road authority. Such as, but not limited to:
  - a. Slight clearing of sight lines at identified corners.
  - b. Signs indicating speed limits
  - c. Signs indicating Rustic Road and drive accordingly
  - d. Neighborhood watch group reporting to local law enforcement.
- K. Oversight of road maintenance to be by SLRC, in coordination with the local road authority.