

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Board Meeting
December 16, 2009, 4:45 p.m.
Room 150, New Science Center, Saint John's University

MINUTES

Board members present: Peter Dwyer, Steve Plantenberg, Mike Leedah, Karen Bobeldyk

Staff present: Jenny Kutter, Tom Kroll, Bill Fahrney

1. Conference/Annual meeting update—Tom K/Jenny K
 - Passed around draft of conference brochure to be mailed in early January
 - o Insert with Feb 5 ordinance review and upcoming county hearings is confusing, should make it obviously distinct from conference information
 - Confirmed increased price for walk-in registrations at \$25/adult, \$10/child
 - Mailing to 4000+ will go out the first week of January. Will begin advertising in other local media throughout January
2. Initiative Award Nominations—Peter D
 - Nominations thus far for Initiative Awards include:
 - o Business: Anderson property/development
 - o Civic: St Joseph Farmers' Market
 - o Individual: Bob & Bonnie Thomsen
 - o Lifetime: Merdan family
 - Motion from Steve to accept these nominations and to contact these groups to ensure their willingness to be nominated. Seconded by Mike. All in favor.
3. Forest Management Plans—Tom K
 - All non-farming acreage will be out of Green Acres program by 2013 (1 neighbors taxes will increase from \$3000 to \$9000)
 - New Rural Preserve Program—6-yr rolling easement, will help keep taxes lower on forested, swampy, etc. land that will no longer qualify for Green Acres and would otherwise be taxed at the higher market value rates
 - Other options available for landowners:
 - o 2c-forested land: another option for landowners
 - o SFIA: Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act
 - All these new property tax program options require forest management plans
 - High demand for plans has DNR beginning to charge to develop plans
 - Have contracted with Peter Bundy (forester) to help with plans in Avon Hills area starting in January
4. CapX2020 hearings update—Steve P/Peter D
 - Concern about proposed routes for power line is increasing
 - Last Avon township meeting was taking proposed power line route options very seriously
 - January AHI meeting will nominate a board member to serve on state's commission reviewing all the proposed routes
5. Rustic Road Legal proposal—Tom K

- No updates yet. Should try to get a proposal before the start of the legislative session in February.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 13 4:45 p.m.