

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Board Meeting
September 30, 2009, 4:45 p.m.
Room 150, New Science Center, Saint John's University

AGENDA

Board Members present: Peter Dwyer, Karen Bobeldyk, Mike Leedahl, Lowell Rushmeyer

Staff present: Tom Kroll, Jenny Kutter

Guests present: Sandra Zwilling

1. Conference/Annual meeting update—Tom/Jenny
 - Confirmed Saturday, Feb. 6
 - Confirmed Stan Tekiela to return this year for keynote
 - Aiming for 300 participants this year, have planned eight strands on topics of: natural history, alternative energy, land use, land management, arts, kids, and misc.
 - Annual ProjectWET teacher training will be a strand within the conference this year
 - Keeping price at \$15/adults, \$5/kids, looking for sponsors to keep kids' costs down
 - Forest Resource Council is helping bring Tom Daniels from the Univ. of Penn. He'll meet Friday to host a county/twp meeting (public welcome), and will meet specifically with Avon/Collegeville twps in the afternoon. He'll give 2 sessions at the conference on Saturday. Recommendations for conference topics from him?
 - o Talk about TDR (transfer of development rights) at the homeowner level. New comp. plan includes the option, so we should educate homeowners about what it means.
2. Initiative Awards—Peter
 - Nomination forms are available on the web site—both paper and online submission.
 - Set the deadline in early January so board can decide winners at January meeting
3. Conservation Easement update—Tom/Bill
 - Thomsen's easement is complete
 - 3 additional properties are currently in the legal processing stage, totaling about 500+ acres in Collegeville and St. Wendell twps.
 - Board approves Tom K. to look into possibility of putting together a group of paid easements in the Avon Hills that could be taken directly to the Lessard Heritage Council in the next few years (after the LCCMR grant is complete). The council may be interested in investing some of the state sales tax money in areas where investments have already been made
4. County ordinance update—Allan/Steve
 - Table to next meeting when Allan or Steve can be present.
5. Newsletter needs articles and writers—Jenny
 - Newsletter should have a greater variety of writers from the community. We need ideas for writers as well as topics for the fall AHI newsletter:
 - o Conservation overlay update
 - o **Conference announcement**
 - o TDR's (Tom Daniels)

- **Initiative Awards (Peter Dwyer)**
 - **CR51 – photos/update (Jody Teich)**
 - Easements 101
 - **Burial ground in Avon (Lowell will get name of professor involved)**
 - Stalled development, land values, etc in Avon Hills – future
 - **Avon visioning session (Sandra Zwilling)**
 - **Next steps – CAPX2020 (Darrin Lahr) - sidebar**
6. Other business
- CAPX2020 Update
 - Plan to file 3 routes with the state 1st week of October
 - State will start holding hearings, accepting alternatives
 - Of all alternative suggestions in the Monticello—St. Cloud route, state has agreed to look at 40, establishing a committee with various people to advise state, have invited established groups
 - AHI could potentially have a place at the table if the state establishes a similar committee to explore routes in this area
 - Hearings will be held in December
 - About one year from now, final line will be decided
 - Mike Leedahl was on a panel at an event at the MN Landscape Arboretum
 - 3 panelists representing various community organizations
 - AHI was the only non-government model
 - About 20 people in attendance, got good reviews

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 28 at 4:45 p.m.