

Meeting Summary

Town of Stillwater GEIS Farmland & Open Space Protection Plan August 16, 2007 7:00PM

Attendees: Dave Anusesky, Chris Martin (Saratoga National Historical Park), Bob Radliffe, Marty Dela Rosa, Linda Palmieri (Town Historian), Linda Sanders (Dep. Historian/Curator), Paul Cummings (TCC), Mike Welti (TCC)

The following topics were discussed:

1. Paul Cummings began the meeting with introductions. Linda Palmieri and Linda Sanders were introduced to the Committee as special guests.
2. The Committee reviewed the notes from the previous meeting. Bob Radliffe readdressed several points that he had made at the previous meeting that were not mentioned in the meeting notes:
 - a. The irony of developing a Green Infrastructure/Smart Growth oriented plan in the backdrop of the Luther Forest Tech Park.
 - b. That in developing this plan, time is of the essence.
 - c. The final plan should be “results oriented.”

These revisions will be made to the Meeting One notes.

3. Mike Welti inquired about posting meeting minutes for Town residents to read. The Committee agreed that in addition to keeping hardcopy at the Town Hall, the town website would be the most appropriate medium.
4. Marty Dela Rosa and Dave Anusesky discussed the difficulties associated with entering the County’s farmland protection program. It typically takes several years to complete a PDR transaction, and that is too long for most farmers. This has created a negative impression of the program among many of them. Marty Dela Rosa and Dave Anusesky also discussed the pressure that aging farmers now face within the town to “sell out” (i.e. sell their land). An open discussion about policies/programs that could address/streamline the County’s farmland preservation program and the future Stillwater Farmland & Open Space Protection Plan followed.
5. Paul Cummings reiterated the goals and themes of Green Infrastructure planning, and also provided some background information about the Farmland and Open Space component of the Town-wide GEIS for the two town historians.
6. The Committee reviewed previous resource inventory maps:
 - a. Town of Stillwater Water Resources

- b. Town of Stillwater Land Cover
 - c. Town of Stillwater Land Use
7. The Committee reviewed resources it had identified at the previous meeting:
- a. potential multi-use trails
 - b. natural resources
 - c. historical resources
 - d. agricultural resources
 - e. Saratoga National Historical Park resources
8. Several new resource maps were introduced. Marty Dela Rosa presented an updated “Active Agriculture” map. Paul Cummings introduced two additional maps to the Committee:
- a. “Protected Lands & Selected Parcels”
 - b. “Natural Resources”
9. The Committee split into two groups, and continued to inventory town-wide resources.
- a. Mike Welti worked with Linda Palmieri and Linda Sanders in identifying historical resources within the town. The Town Historians provided a list of historical features that are within the Town, and using a Town Parcels map, marked the location of most of these historical sites and resources.
 - b. The other Committee members analyzed new and previous maps. Additional resources that were inventoried included:
 - i. active farmland
 - ii. prime farmland soils & soils of statewide importance
 - iii. county program protected lands
 - iv. open space institute protected lands
 - v. lands leased by SNHP for agriculture
 - vi. Saratoga PLAN preservation projects
 - vii. watershed resources
 - viii. wetland resources
 - ix. waterway resources
 - x. aquifer resources
 - xi. ecological resources
10. The Committee reconvened to discuss potential public workshop topics, material, format and logistics. Paul Cummings told the Committee that Tammy Russell, from the Supervisor’s Office, is trying to reserve a room at the school for the public workshop. Committee members discussed three possible locations within the school that would best serve the planned group breakout session:
- a. library
 - b. cafeteria
 - c. gym
11. The Committee discussed possible ways to publicize the Public Workshop:
- a. Flyers

- b. Town website
 - c. Local papers
 - d. Press release with follow up call to reporters
12. The Committee discussed the possibility of a second public meeting, which would be an opportunity to present the Committee's findings, and which could be used to provide information to the public regarding farmland and open space related issues and conservation techniques. Bob Radcliffe and Marty Dela Rosa suggested various agricultural and land use professionals that they would be interested in seeing at either a separate meeting or at a possible second public meeting. Bob R suggested that Randall Arendt should be contacted to see if he could be brought to Stillwater to speak about the conservation subdivision process.
13. Chris Martin provided several maps that the Saratoga National Historical Park staff had analyzed. They had added numerous comments and suggestions related to:
- a. ecological resources
 - b. birding opportunities
 - c. fishing and hunting opportunities
 - d. cultural resources
 - e. scenic resources
 - f. historic resources

Public Meeting tentatively scheduled for September 18, at 7:00 pm (location: will be announced when finalized)

Follow Up:

1. TCC to confirm with town date location of Public Meeting
2. TCC to develop public presentation material and final format
3. Committee members and TCC to create and distribute Public Meeting publicity information
4. TCC to synthesize and process inventoried resources into thematically arranged maps (i.e. Natural Systems, Recreation & Trails, Cultural Landscapes, Working Landscapes)
5. TCC to send Marty Dela Rosa three maps: Farm Soil Classification Map, Water Resources Map, Elevation Map.

Notes prepared by P. Cummings.

Please report any errors or omissions no later than September 6, 2007 to pcummings@chazencompanies.com

