

BOVINA ADOPTS STREAM CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

By Peter Manning

The Delaware Watershed Stream Management Grant Program offers grants for a variety of stream related projects and programs, provided the municipality adopts the plan. Gale Neale of the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Jennifer Wallen of the Delaware County Planning Department were on hand at the town's Tuesday evening board meeting to explain the program. The program is operated through a partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Eligible projects fall within the areas of flood management, highway infrastructure improvement, wetland and habitat enhancements, recreation-based opportunities, and stream restoration. Eligible programs fall under categories that include education, outreach, training, planning and assessment. In the 2010 funding round, \$500,000 will be available, with a total of \$2 million to be spent by mid-2013. Applicants must be either the municipality itself or a 501 c.3 not-for-profit corporation, and the corporation must have a letter of support from the host municipality to apply.

Proposed projects must follow the recommendation of the West Branch management plan or action plan. The management plan is available at the SWCD's website (www.dcsxcd.org). Prospective

applicants or anyone with project ideas may contact Neale at (607) 865-7161 or complete a Request for Pre-Application Conference form. The deadline for the forms to be submitted is June 1, while the formal applications are due July 1. The applications will be made available at SCWD, county planning, the town office, and DEP's stream management website: www.CatskillStreams.org. With all the information they needed, the town board passed a resolution adopting the West Branch Delaware River Stream Corridor Plan, and Supervisor Tina Mole' signed the memorandum of understanding with SWCD. In closing, Neale encouraged the town to review local plans, apply for funds, and participate in the project advisory committee to assist with the program.

In other business, the board heard a report from Supervisor Tina Mole' and Highway Superintendent Bob Burgin, who attended a training on prevailing wage requirements held by the New York State Department of Labor. The town must assure that all contractors employed by the town certify that they are paying prevailing wages. It was noted prevailing wages are established by geographic area and Bovina is higher than other nearby towns. Because smaller businesses often pay less than prevailing wages, the new requirement is likely to impact these operations. Following this discussion, Councilman Mary

Joan Robson reported on the transfer station issue of construction-and-demolition coverage and the associated additional costs. In acknowledging the lack of enforcement, the board recognized that the operator of the facility is not a law enforcement officer and that the responsibility rests primarily on the town. The board has been made aware of one person who exceeded the 55-gallon drum limit, and will direct a letter to his attention. Toward the end of the meeting, Councilman Ken Brown introduced a proposal to renovate the kitchen in the community hall basement for a cost of \$5500. The source of funds would be a member-item grant from Senator John Bonacic, which is still pending the receipt of a signed contract. The renovation proposal generated conversation with regard to the town's other needs, such as highway equipment. Councilman Robson recalled the days when her children enjoyed using the hall, and she emphasized its value to the community. Councilman Chuck McIntosh agreed, acknowledging that in the scope of much larger and longer term equipment purchases, a lower cost renovation project makes sense in the meantime. The board, recognizing the cost effectiveness of the proposal before them, unanimously passed a resolution to pursue the renovation project.

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