

Summary of Natural Environment Work Group Core discussion, 5 October 2006

Present: Tim Boland, Tom Chase, Judy Crawford, Brendan O'Neill, Jo-Ann Taylor, Tom Wallace

Absent: Dick Johnson, Matt Pelikan, Leah Smith

Logistics

The present members preferred lunchtime meetings, and chose to hold in advance the first and third Thursdays of each month as potential meeting dates. (We agreed we could modify the time and/or frequency as the work and our availability demanded). Face-to-face meetings were preferred and were understood to be necessary for any meeting requiring the larger Work Group. However when information exchange only required the Work Group's core, we agreed to meet by conference call, with additional e mail exchange. Tom Wallace generously offered to provide conference call facilities. We agreed that rotating meeting locations may lessen logistical burdens, and the MV Commission, Wakeman Center, and the offices of Wallace and Company, Polly Hill Arboretum and The Nature Conservancy were offered as potential meeting sites.

The next meeting will be at 11:30 on Thursday 19 October 2006 at the Wakeman Center.

Necessary information needed to get started

The Natural Environment Work Group core felt the MVC planning maps (showing, for example, open space and development suitability) would be very useful, both for background as well as to help visualize the possible results of various strategies. These maps will be provided at the Wakeman Center for the next meeting, but generally will be available at the MVC when we meet there.

Main expectations of the Work Group core

- Long-term, visionary goals, with an emphasis on effective, action-oriented strategies
- An array of strategies (ranging from traditional, to borrowed to genuinely innovative) to meet short-, mid- and long-term goals
- Select strategies that are incentive-based, do not vilify any segment of our community, and generate public enthusiasm
- Above all, a holistic approach: the strategies from the Natural Environment Work Group should exceed the core goals of conservation and be integrated with and in service to the rest of the communities' goals