

## BDR chronology

There have been ongoing questions as to the status and chronology of the draft Comeau Baseline Documentation (BDR). The Woodstock Land Conservancy addressed these concerns in a February 24 Woodstock Times letter to the editor. That letter referenced a full chronology of BDR related events, which you can find below.

- The vast majority of key draft BDR maps and documents are based on data collected on an initial site visit by WLC's BDR consultant in mid-December of 2009, within weeks of the easement's signing on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Completion of the BDR prior to the signing of the easement was not possible in this case. The Town's Special Counsel Steven Barshov was aware of this. He participated in discussions with WLC's attorney and BDR consultant in the days leading up to the easement signing, the purpose of which was to establish an agreed-upon methodology in the development of the BDR. WLC's continuing work to develop and refine the draft BDR during the first half of 2010 was also communicated to Mr. Barshov and Town officials
- At a 7/20/10 Town Board meeting "update", WLC's Executive Director informed Town Board members that the draft BDR documents were ready for their review. This was reiterated at our 7/24/10 public Comeau informational meeting. By subsequent agreement between WLC and Town Board representatives, the review would consist of a BDR presentation by WLC representatives to all five Town Board members followed by a property "walk-around" visiting specific locations referenced in the presentation some requiring decisions by the Town.
- Vacations on both the Town's and WLC's parts prevented scheduling a BDR presentation and walking relevant portions of the property for much of August. One scheduled review meeting in the fall had to be cancelled due to a major rainstorm. On another occasion, John Winter arrived to a scheduled review meeting and was informed that the TB had entered an emergency Executive Session. After a 3 hour wait, the review meeting had to be cancelled.

A primary scheduling challenge throughout the fall was a by-product of a Town Board determination that the BDR review must take place with all five town board member present. Although not required by the easement or for WLC's purposes, this was a Town decision.

- In December, WLC received a request from the town board that we provide advance copies of the draft documentation to facilitate its review by individual town board members. We determined that, in addition to being time-consuming and expensive, this would not accomplish the intended result. The BDR documentation was drafted in a manner that necessitates its review in person with the various documents, maps, methods (including specific aspects requiring decisions and approvals by the Town Board) all presented in context, explained and any questions answered.
- At a January 25 special meeting of the Town Board, the Town Board agreed to forgo having advance copies of the binders. They scheduled an initial meeting with John Winter and Chair of the Comeau Working Group, Hank Starr, for February 8 to review the binder with as many Town

Board members as could attend. WLC consented to leave a binder at the Town offices following the meeting and to schedule the property “walk-around” at a later date.

- On February 8, Hank Starr and John Winter met with 4 members of the Town Board (Cathy Magarelli was unable to attend) and presented the BDR binder and its materials in a public meeting. WLC and the Town Board will meet again to walk the property as soon as weather permits. At that point, the Town Board will make decisions regarding the items WLC flagged for Town review, any necessary final revisions will be made and Town and WLC representatives will then sign the documents.