



Municipal Conservation Easement Stewardship Program Plan Worksheet

Municipalities are welcome to fill out the following worksheet in lieu of providing a Municipal Conservation Easement Stewardship Program Plan. (Please keep in mind that a fully developed plan that has been approved by the municipal decision making body/ planning board will provide the greatest support and means for the municipality to carry out a conservation easement stewardship program.)

I. Briefly describe the team assigned to develop the Conservation Easement Inventory and Stewardship Program.

The Director of Sustainability, Hillsborough Planning and Zoning Department and Engineering Department collaborated on this action. The Zoning Officer led the efforts as the enforcement officer for the town.

II. Please provide a statement of the intent, scope, and essential provisions of the Municipal Conservation Easement Stewardship Program.

Conservation areas are used to preserve buffer areas and environmentally sensitive resources, where required and/or deemed appropriate by the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment. Buffer areas and conservation easements are utilized for the primary purpose of providing screening views and reducing noise perception beyond the lot, as well as for the protection of environmentally sensitive resources, where appropriate. The Hillsborough Township Municipal Conservation Easement Stewardship Program serves to supplement the Township's ordinance by providing a framework (Inventory) for the enforcing municipal official (Zoning Official) to provide enforcement. The Township's education program extends the conservation easement education provided to the original homeowners to new homeowners.

III. Please describe the timeline for the inventory, monitoring, and stewardship efforts. (In order to receive points for this action, the inventory is required to have been developed.)

An education campaign began in 2012. Then there was an opportunity to obtain a \$10,000 grant to hire the land conservancy in 2016 to create the inventory. Monitoring and stewardship is a later phase once everything is in place.

IV. Estimated costs and potential funding for the Municipal Conservation Easement Stewardship Program. Please include costs incurred while developing the inventory. (You may provide information for the inventory only, if this is the only information available to you. However it is important that you start to identify funding opportunities for the monitoring/inspection and stewardship efforts required for a conservation easement stewardship program.)

\$10,000 for the consultant plus staff time.

V. Please describe the staff, volunteers, and/or professionals who worked on the inventory. Will they also work on the monitoring/inspection and/or stewardship activities as well? If not, please provide a proposal of who may be responsible for those actions?

The zoning officer led the efforts working collaboratory with other departments. A plan for monitoring and inspecting would be developed once the inventory is in place.

VI. Please describe the outreach and education undertaken in order to develop the plan and/or the inventory.

A conservation easement education campaign was created in 2012 to educate residents. In 2015, with grant funds, brochures were printed and distributed. An electronic version is on the township website and is sent out via the township e-Newsletter.