

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of April 19, 2017, at the Community Center

Members Present: Brad Barclay, Kevin Borden, Lynn Bowdery, Marion DuBois, Richard Fiesel, John Gotto, Cara Lee, Dennis Moore, and Andrew Titus

Town Officials: Marty Irwin, Town Councilman

Public present: Thomas Weiner, potential CWOSP Comm. member

Minutes taken by: Lynn Bowdery, CWOSP Commission member and Secretary.

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:05 PM by Chairman Dennis Moore

2. Public comments: Cara Lee, speaking as a member of the public, informed the Commission about the status of the Zero Place application before the Village of New Paltz Planning Board, and the committee that has been formed to review the Neighborhood Business Residential District zoning, which had a flawed process of approval. A public workshop to collect input on the desired character of the NBR District will be held on April 27th, 7PM, at the New Paltz Community Center.

3. Review, amend & approve minutes: After a brief discussion, John Gotto moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting as amended. Andrew Titus seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. Councilman Marty Irwin reminded the Commission that the Open Meetings law requires minutes of public meetings to be posted within two weeks of the meeting, and if approved minutes are not available, draft minutes must be submitted to the Town Clerk within that period.

4. Introduction of Thomas Wiener: Dennis Moore introduced Tom Weiner, who has expressed an interest in joining the Commission in response to the Town's volunteers needed ad in the New Paltz Times. He is a civil engineer who has lived for over 30 years in the Plutarch area of New Paltz, has been active with Mohonk Preserve and Minnewaska State Park Preserve, participated in the New Paltz Transportation Study, served on the New Paltz Transportation Implementation Committee, and will be retiring soon from the New York State Department of Transportation and intends to be doing more in the community. He asked questions about what the Commission does and what we have been engaged in recently, and about criteria and geographic distribution for land preservation. A general discussion followed. Brad Barclay enthusiastically endorsed Tom's membership, having worked with him in Dutchess County.

Brad Barclay moved that the CWOSP Commission recommend to the Town Board that Thomas Weiner be appointed to the Commission.

Richard Fiesel seconded the motion.

All voted in favor (Kevin Borden had had to leave at 7:25 PM and wasn't there to vote).

5. Taliaferro application: Dennis Moore reported that the new appraisal on the Farm property has been done and Equity Trust is considering it. There was a general discussion about the progress of the project.

6. Mill Brook Preserve update: There is now a conservation easement (CE) on the Town's two Mill Brook Preserve parcels.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Town, Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and Mill Brook Preserve, Inc. is in process and making headway.

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Village Trustee Rebecca Rotzler has been shepherding the conservation easement process with the Village and Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and they are close to agreement on the provision of the CE except for the extinguishment clause, which is still being negotiated.

The Recreation Plan required by both the CE and MOA has been drafted by Julie Lillis with contributions by Karl Beard, and is being reviewed prior to approval.

7. Further recommendations from the Open Space Protection Plan: We should all review the goals of the Open Space Plan and identify which ones have been met and what areas of the Town need more work. Richard Fiesel said that development pressure is increasing. In particular, a large parcel on North Ohioville Road that had been up for tax auction had someone that might be interested in buying it.

8. Other business: John Gotto asked if the CWOSP Commission is still in the business of protecting open space? A discussion followed. The main obstacle is the Town's willingness to spend the money. Cara Lee said that in the past CWOSP did more outreach. Andrew Titus wondered if CWOSP could be more proactive, and identify potential properties in light of our plans to review the goals of the Open Space Plan.

9. New business: The voucher statement for proposed stewardship services for 2017 by the Wallkill Valley Land Trust was submitted by Lynn Bowdery. Dennis Moore asked whether WVLT had been paid for its 2016 services. Lynn will find out. Dennis will submit the proposal to the Town Board.

10. Adjournment: Cara Lee moved that the meeting be adjourned. Andrew Titus seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.