

Town of New Paltz Open Space Committee

Minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting.

Present: Ellen M. Bennett (Sect.), Ray Curran, Cara Lee, Seth McKee (Co-chair), Bob Taylor, Michael Zierler (Co-chair)

This meeting was held in Town Hall, and started at 7:40PM.

Public Input: Sue Stegen was present at this meeting to discuss issues related to Butterville Road. Sue is a member of the Community Improvement Team in New Paltz.

Regarding parking on Butterville Road: Sue wondered if parkers could be reminded that parking on Pine Road is better. She noted that there are at least 8 to 10 cars parked on Butterville on weekend mornings and people are accessing Mohonk Mountain House lands through Lenape Lane from this parking location. Parking at this location, while legal, is on the increase.

Rivendell Winery proposal: Sue informed those present that Rivendell Winery has a possible relocation for their winery at the intersection of Rt. 299/Albany Post Rd./Butterville Rd. She presented a conceptual site plan of the proposed winery. Sue raised concerns about traffic increasing, the amount of parking planned, putting a business on such a scenic corner, and noted that the parcel is scenic open space.

The Open Space Committee referred Sue to the Town EnCC, which would be the more relevant group to address concerns regarding the proposed winery; their responsibility is to advise the Town on environmental matters. Those present recommended that Sue reference the Open Space Plan section on the Butterville/Caanan pothills, particularly the scenic & ecological points (pgs. 14 & 15).

1. Budget Update: N/A

The Open Space Committee offered funds to the Town to make a contribution to the Two Farms Campaign. Bob Taylor is waiting to hear from Jason on this. ***BOB will call Jason.** Michael recommended contacting Brittany Turner, Village Clerk to get on the Village Board agenda for this issue.

2. Update and Brainstorming Next Steps on Bond Implementation: The Town Board was given the Open Space Committee's recommendations and timeline in January. Cara & Seth have been trying to meet with Toni. Those present were reminded that Kathleen Healy is the Town Board liaison to the OSC. ***SETH will email Kathleen and try to schedule a meeting with her and Toni as well as Cara.** Michael recommended having a regular, weekly conversation regarding the bond with Kathleen or whoever will be the Town Board point person for the bond implementation work.

The next major steps for the Town are to adopt the law for setting up a bond commission and then setting up the commission. It is likely that the OSC will need to develop application questions for potential commission members as a guide for interviewing candidates. A letter of interest from candidates would be very helpful to the interview process as well.

It was noted that Vin Martello of Marbletown asked Dennis Doyle to be involved with the three towns (Marbletown, New Paltz, and Gardiner) regarding bond implementation.

3. Update on Mill Brook Preserve & Decision on Letter to Editor:

The project is on hold pending a lawsuit.
Nan Stoizenberg's firm would like to finish their report; they would like to expand on their Woodland Pond report to include the whole proposed Preserve and provide additional details and viewshed analysis.
- Green Acres – there is a possible new buyer for this property. It is a local person interested in energy efficient buildings. There may be an opportunity for a trail easement with a new owner.
- Stoneleigh Woods – is in facilitation. A stakeholders meeting was held recently, other meetings will follow.

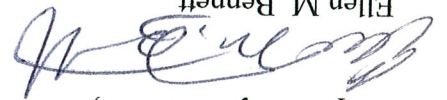
- David Jakim is continuing his data collection and field studies. It was suggested that we ask him for a write up detailing what he is doing.
- Letter to Editor from OSC - *SETH will draft and circulate a letter for committee review.
- It was noted that, independent from the Mill Brook Preserve, Woodland Pond has agreed to a conservation easement on all land not developed/permanent open space as a requirement of the CoFO.

4. Build-out Analysis:

John Behan presented the report to the Town Board in February. Behan will be tweaking the report a bit based on TB comments.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen M. Bennett
EnCC & OSC Secretary