Town of New Paltz Open Space Committee

Minutes of the July 11, 2007 meeting.

Present: Ellen M. Bennett (Sect.), Marion DuBois, Kathleen Healey, Seth McKee (Co-chair), Michael Zierler (Co-chair)

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

Public Input: N/A

Budget Update: Seth reported that $2,136 had been spent thus far this year. There are funds remaining for bond implementation/project administration, Mill Brook Preserve Planning, Public Education and Personal Services.

Establishment of Open Space Commission

* Draft local law: Public hearing to be held July 26th. A draft of the law was distributed for review and discussion.

Comments:

- The Commission will need to establish who/how Baseline Monitoring Plans will be accomplished and who will do annual monitoring.
- Who will hold easements? Town jointly with land trust? The Commission could make recommendations on this point. (See 44-6.B. #14)
- How will administrative costs (secretarial support, etc.) be covered?

Regarding 44-8.A. #1 – It was suggested that this section be removed. *SETH will email Toni & Cara regarding this section. *KATHLEEN will raise this to the Town Board.

- Regarding 44-8.D. – Concern was raised with this section. It was suggested that this could be added over time. *SETH will relay this concern to Toni & Cara.
- Add annual audit language.

* Identifying candidates:

- It was recommended that possible candidates be notified about the Public Hearing on the 26th.
- On the 26th the Town Board could decide to advertise for commission applications.
- It was suggested that the Open Space Committee review commission candidate applications and make recommendations to the Town Board.

It was recommended that Toni call the Supervisor of Town of Warwick, Don Nicol to gather information regarding financial details of the bond in Warwick.

Update on Mill Brook Preserve Planning:

- Nan Stolzenberg created a concept for the Preserve by examining the ecological underpinnings of the site and then created a schematic of the Preserve. This body of work was shared with the Village Planning Board.
- Concept plan was shared with a key landowner/neighbor of the Preserve. Seth & Michael along with Nan & Don Meltz will be meeting again with this landowner to discuss any potential concerns.
- We are underway in trying to define the Preserve boundaries.
- Purpose of the Preserve:
    - Create a scientific planning tool to assist the Town & Village Planning Boards in decision making.
    - Create a Preserve that protects the water quality & wildlife habitat, enhances recreational opportunities.

-Woodland Pond has agreed to establish a conservation easement and it is required before their first Certificate of Occupancy is granted but it is hoped that it will be completed earlier.
Stone Leigh Woods will be returning to the Village Board next month.
Green Acres property: new owner is aware of the need for a trail corridor in this location.

Update on Community Preservation Act:
There is a bill currently in the legislature to enable local governments to pass their own Real Estate Transfer Tax (up to 2% of the value of the real estate transferring - above the median in the county). The Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act was passed for Westchester & Putnam counties. All are encouraged to contact their legislator in support of this legislation.

Future of Open Space Committee:
Once the Clean Water & Open Space Commission (CWOSP) is established, the work of the current Open Space Committee will be completed. The new Commission would/could take on the work of the OSC. At its inception, the Open Space Committee wasn't meant to be a permanent committee.

With regard to the Open Space Plan, the Plan has a list of action items and there should be a mechanism in place to accomplish these objectives. It was agreed that the current *OSC will review the Plan recommendations/action items and determine which might become the purview of the CWOSP.

Comments:
- Create an ad hoc committee to move the Millbrook Preserve forward.
- Have an annual review of the Open Space Plan - possibly building this into local law. Have an oversight body to determine, annually, if OS Plan objectives are being met.
- Bring action items back to the EnCC.
- Have an annual Open Space retreat.

Brief meeting with Town EnCC:
The EnCC was holding their regular monthly meeting and met with the OSC for an update.
- It was explained that the Open Space Committee was originally a project of the EnCC. With the Open Space Plan completed and the bond passed the Open Space Committee mandates have been met and the committee will likely disband this fall when the Town establishes the Open Space Commission (CWOSP).
- It was suggested that EnCC members think about people who might be candidates for the CWOSP. Anyone interested in applying to serve on this commission should let the Town Board know. There will be a public announcement about applying.
- The Mill Brook Preserve is an outstanding project of the OSC and this project will move forward.
- *MICHAEL will get Martha a copy of the OS Plan. The Plan is also on the Town website.
- EnCC is seeking Board status and is working on a natural resources inventory and open space index to become a Board. Michael suggested that the Soil & Water Conservation Districts provide a lot of technical expertise and might give some assistance.
- EnCC has been discussing a moratorium and sent a letter to the paper as well as the Town Board. At the regular meeting of the EnCC on September 5th, Dennis Doyle will be invited to speak regarding moratoriums. Planning Board & Open Space Committee are invited.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen M. Bennett
OSC Secretary
EnCC Secretary

New [illegible]z Open Space Committee
Budget Update
11-Jul-07

Line Item	Approved 2007 Amount	Spent to Date	Balance	Fund
Bond Implementation/Project Administration	$50,000	$0	$50,000	B - Town and Village
Mill Brook Preserve Planning	$20,000	$2,136	$17,864	A - Town
Public Education	$6,000	$0	$6,000	A
Personal Services (Secretary)	$1,950	$0	$1,950	A
Total	**$77,950**		**$75,814**	