

Town of New Paltz Open Space Committee

minutes of the October 10, 2007 meeting.

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

This meeting was held in Town Hall, and started at 7:40PM. The Town Board requested that the Open Space Committee (OSC) conduct interviews of possible candidates for the New Paltz Clean Water & Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP). The purpose of this meeting was to conduct interviews of candidates interested in serving on the CWOSP.

History of Open Space Committee: All candidates were given the following history and information leading up to the formation of the Commission.

- The Open Space Committee was an ad hoc committee created in 2000/2001.
- An Open Space Inventory was created in 2003
- Open Space Plan was passed in June 2006
- The public passed a 2 million dollar bond in November 2006
- In August 2007 the Town Board passed a law to create a Commission of 11 members whose purpose is, with the Town Board, to execute the elements of the Local Law Chapter 44 entitled "Agriculture and Open Space Preservation and Acquisition".
- o If more than 11 people are interested in serving on the Commission the Open Space Committee will recommend that those additional candidates serve as alternates.
- Town Board asked OSC to interview candidates for the CWOSP and make recommendations.
- The OSC will make recommendations to the Town Board this month (October 2007) with the Commission holding their first meeting in November 2007.
- Functions of the Commission are outlined in the Local Law. The Commission will have an opportunity to get up to speed on the Open Space Plan as well as the local law establishing the Commission.
- The Commission will likely meet monthly but may meet more frequently during busy times or may go on site visits from time to time.
- There is a budget for the Commission that will cover support costs i.e. administrative support, legal assistance, printing, deal packaging, etc.

Generally, all candidates were asked the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the New Paltz CWOSP?
2. Please describe the skills you would be able to contribute to the CWOSP?
3. Please describe other ways you have been involved in community matters in New Paltz, if any.
4. How much time would you be able to commit to CWOSP on a monthly basis?
5. Do you have any personal or financial relationships with potential applicants for CWOSP funding?
6. What types of land are you most interested in seeing conserved?
7. Are you a resident of the Town or Village of New Paltz, and where?

Candidate responses:

Lynn Bowdery: Lives on Mountain Rest Road

Interest in serving:

- Interested in Open Space
- As member of the Planning Board, this would be complementary to the PB work
- This is important for the whole town

Skills:

- Hudsonia Biodiversity Training
- Creates baseline data documents for Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT)
- Has access to guidelines of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA)
- Brought WVL T data up to date

- Has taken Open Space Institute training and attended LTA conferences

Community involvement:

- is on Planning Board

Issues working with WVL:

- Would recuse herself as needed (similar response as Brad – see below)
- Is not only an employee of WVL but husband serves on the Board.

Types of land interested in conserving:

- There are good guidelines in the Open Space Plan with the “character areas”.

- Vital habitat. Habitat corridors are neglected in Open Space Plan. This requires study & review

Time Commitment:

- has flexible schedule, this is not a problem

Brad Barclay: Lives on Henry Court

Acting Director of Parks in Dutchess County
Board Member Wallkill Valley Land Trust

Interest in serving:

- Very familiar with the planning process and there is only so much you can do with regulations
- This work is in line with life’s work

Skills:

- Planning and environmental review experience

Community involvement:

- Coached softball for 5 years

Issues working with WVL:

- Would recuse himself on a project basis.
- Could take a leave of absence from WVL Board or not vote or take part in discussions

Types of land interested in conserving:

- First approved should be high value and consider what people voted for and make sure there is a mixture.

Time Commitment:

- has flexible schedule, this is not a problem

Bob Gabrieli: Lives on Dug Road, west of the Wallkill. Grew up in New Paltz

Is in real estate, has worked for New Paltz police, and went to college at SUNY New Paltz.

Currently works for the State as Deputy Inspector General for Fraud at Workers Compensation Board.

Interest in serving:

- Has seen many changes over time.
- Town has rich history for him and he would like to preserve some of these things.
- Is fixated on fairness. If you want to do something it should be fair to all – fair to community, fair to landowner.

Skills:

- Background in real estate and business and has historical perspective

Community involvement:

- Was police officer
- Was Town Board member
- Is on Master Plan Committee

- Ran for Town Justice

Types of land interested in conserving:

- farm land, wood lots, preserve rural character

Time Commitment:

- evenings are fine

Fundraising/grants experience:

- Is on NYS Crime Stoppers Board
- Is on Police Chiefs Benevolent Association – were the number one fundraising organization for the city's telethon

Jim Delaune: lives on Plutarch Road. Has lived in New Paltz 20 years.

Is Director of Orange County Land Trust

Was Director of City of Newburgh Economic Development Program

Interest in serving:

- Trying to create a regional approach to preservation of water and other issues
- Would like to work with New Paltz and get involved regionally

- o *Jim was asked how he sees this local committee advancing regional issues.*

- Farming, agriculture & watersheds are regional issues

Skills:

Community involvement:

- Very little. Involved with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and the Civic Center.
- Has served on Shawangunk Ridge Coalition

Types of land interested in conserving:

- agricultural lands, views which is what makes New Paltz special

Time commitment:

- not a problem

Fundraising/grants experience:

- Has dealt with Community Development Action Grants and was smart about the way the grants were used.

Jim inquired how stewardship issues are being dealt with.

"the law spells out, with specificity, the requirements for baseline monitoring. This could be contracted out.

These details are for the Commission to determine.

Jim also inquired about funds for litigation.

The Commission will tackle many of these questions but there is a budget and resources to draw from.

Jim Hyland: lives on Huguenot Street in the Village

Interest in serving:

- Involved in Winter Sun Farms: works with local farmers freezing extra product to be sold during the winter months. Idea is to be a regional company, but may branch out to other regions.
- Involved in Vermont with Builders for Social Responsibility – help write "green" criteria for home building in Vermont. Also involved Vermont Building Resources – work with farmers to purchase land.
- Would like to see more of the above-mentioned happening locally.

Community involvement:

- Bike & Pedestrian Committee
- Rail Trail Committee

Types of land interested in conserving:

- Farmland

- Would like to see the bond spent appropriately. Would be upset if we had the money and the committee and things didn't get done. Would like to see actions.

Time commitment:

- Harvest time is a crunch otherwise no major problems. Meeting once a month may be too much for some committees, sub-committees could be used.

Jim inquired whether specific parcels had been determined.

There is an open space inventory and general recommendations in the Open Space Plan, but this is the Commission's job to determine.

What kind of budget is available?

The Open Space Committee has a fairly significant budget and there will be funds for administrative support, legal support, planning consultant, appraisals, etc. These funds are not bond funds but rather are part of the town budget.

Cara Lee: Lives on Huguenot Street in the Village

Interest in serving:

- Feels the desire to see it through

- Particular involvement in getting the bond passed and wants to see the implementation of it.

- Belief in the Open Space Plan

- There is desire in the community to preserve open space.

- Loved working on the 2 Farms Project and this is an opportunity to do more.

Types of land interested in conserving:

- Finding those parcels that protect multiple values e.g. protecting a river corridor and a flood plain a farm & wildlife corridor.

- Identifying places where you are also protecting biodiversity value.

Seth McKee: Lives on Duzine Road

Interest in serving:

- Wants to see some projects to completion after such a long process.

- Continuity is important to the process.

Types of land interested in conserving:

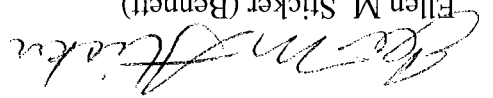
- Farms, streams, woodlands

- Linkages in the heart of New Palz

- Create opportunities for children to experience natural surroundings

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen M. Sticker (Bennett)

OSC Secretary
EnCC Secretary