

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
DRAFT Minutes, Meeting of November 8, 2017; at the Community Center

Members Present: Brad Barclay, Kevin Borden, Richard Fiesel, John Gotto, Michael Knutson, Cara Lee, Dennis Moore

Town Officials: Town Board Liaison Marty Irwin

Public Present: None

Minutes taken by: Michael Knutson (items 1-3 and 5-10) and John Gotto (item 4), CWOSP commission members

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:04 pm by Chairman Dennis Moore.
2. Public comments: None.
3. Review, amend, and approve minutes of previous meeting: Taliaferro application – Michael Knutson asked that the minutes be revised to note his recusal from discussion of the Taliaferro application at the October 11, 2017 meeting. Brad Barclay moved that the minutes be approved as amended. John Gotto seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.
4. Taliaferro application: Michael Knutson recused himself from the discussion and left the meeting. At the November 2nd public hearing for the PDR project, the neighbors spoke in favor of the application and there was no opposition. Neil Bettez is awaiting info from the Town attorney before bringing the project before the Town Board for final approval.
5. Gateway Project: Michael Knutson returned to the meeting. Dennis Moore noted that CWOSP has a role beyond open space projects and that it is important for the Commission's voice to be heard on significant Town proposals. Kevin Borden passed out a draft letter to the Gateway Committee for discussion. He noted key points in the letter such as: explanation of the important advisory role of CWOSP in long-term planning, recommending that any amendments of the Town's Comprehensive Plan should reflect criteria in the Clean Water and Open Space Project Rating Form, recommending environmental buffers on parcels abutting the Thruway, and recommending that any development prioritize pre-existing footprints of prior developed sites. Kevin Borden noted further that the letter would be a sort of "letter of support" to the Gateway Committee and that it needs to be submitted by November 20th. Cara Lee agreed about the opportunity for CWOSP to provide its expertise in the planning process and noted further that she thinks the Village of New Paltz is interested in strategic connectivity and open space conservation as well. Richard Fiesel suggested that the Empire State Trail should be considered in the Gateway planning. Dennis Moore requested feedback from CWOSP Commission members on the draft letter by the 15th and then would do an email vote on a final version of the letter to send out.

6. Millbrook Preserve: Dennis Moore noted that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Village and Town is being finalized. Both municipalities are waiting for this plus to Recreation Plan. The Recreation Plan will be a single document with appendices specific to the Village and Town, respectively. Dennis noted that advantages of a joint approach on a single document is to get broad agreement on core items affecting Millbrook Preserve, such as environmentally sound principles for Trail construction and critical linkages to places like Moriello Pool. The Recreation Plan will be submitted next week. Marty Irwin noted the challenge of having a single plan and asked what would happen if the Village was not prepared to approve soon or wanted to add items that the Town didn't agree with. Dennis Moore noted that the Village has expressed its desire to get this done soon as a single document and suggested that we should move forward with a single document and see if this can work. Marty Irwin asked if the Recreation Plan could be split into two documents if needed and Dennis Moore said that it could. Dennis Moore noted that his and Marty Irwin's involvement is ensuring that CWOSP's voice is being heard in this process.

7. Revving up public outreach for land preservation: Brad Barclay said that he hasn't been able to connect with his contact in the Ulster County Real Property Office as of yet, but thinks he will be able to soon. Marty Irwin noted that the Town is acquiring an ArcInfo license and computer which may allow them to help with creating a mailing list from a real property database.

8. New business: Dennis Moore noted that there is a possible conservation opportunity for 20 acres behind the high school and next to the Thruway. Dennis said he will run the property through the CWOSP Rating Form, visit it and report back for discussion; however, it may not be a suitable PDR project due to wetlands and the parcel being land-locked.

9. Other business: Cara Lee suggested we give certain CWOSP documents to the library for archiving and preservation purposes. Dennis Moore noted that there is a vacancy on the CWOSP Commission and he is trying to connect with an interested volunteer who was previously on the waiting list. Cara Lee suggested that the Commission consider revisiting the 2006 Open Space Plan soon to look at whether any shifting of priorities is necessary, particularly in light of OSI conservation work and climate change. She said that we may value certain parcels differently in light of changed circumstances.

10. Adjournment: Brad Barclay moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dennis Moore seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.