

Town of New Paltz

Clean Water Open Space Protection (CWOSP) Commission Meeting

Minutes

November 9, 2011 7:00 PM

Members Present: Marty Irwin, Bradford Barclay, Lynn Bowdery, Seth McKee, Tom O'Dowd, Doug McBride and Fawn Tantillo

Guests Present: Jeffrey Perls, Chris Ullrich and Olivia McKee

Public Comments:

Chris Ullrich advocated that CWOSP continue to pursue possible purchase of property at 189 Springtown Road owned by Annette Caviloa. He stated there has been interest from a developer looking to buy several parcels in the area for development. The property is in two major floodplains and a tributary to the Wallkill River. Fawn Tantillo will contact property broker and inform them that CWOSP has an interest in a site visit to the property for rating purposes.

Jeffrey Perls asked how properties are ranked when the CWOSP Commission is considering a property. It was responded that there is a formal ranking system that includes consideration of: agricultural use, wildlife habitat, endangered species, adjacency to pre-existing protected areas, educational benefits, scenic views etc. It was suggested that the ranking guideline be added to the website for the public to view.

Review and Approve Minutes of previous meetings:

September 14th minutes accepted with clarification on Agenda Item 3 that Toni Hokanson approves of CWOSP being responsible for seeing that monitoring is done for the Palmateer Property.

Move to accept minutes made by: Doug McBride Second by: Tom O'Dowd

Vote: unanimous in favor (Fawn Tantillo abstained as she was not present at the September meeting)

October 26th minutes motion to approve made by: Lynn Bowdery Second by: Seth McKee

Vote: unanimous in favor (Fawn Tantillo and Tom O'Dowd abstained as they were not present at the October meeting)

Kira Kinney CE:

In communications with Marty Irwin Kira Kinney expressed concern over wording – hoop houses are pervious in that the soil horizon is not changed but the hoop house is covered with impervious plastic.

Concern was expressed that the clarity of the term sheet is important for future board members or property owners to understand what this board intends in terms of structures on the property

It was decided that Marty Irwin would invite Kira Kinney to the next meeting to further discuss the wording of the term sheet in order to move forward with appraising the value of the property.

Review Contract with Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT):

Brad Barclay recused himself from the discussion due to potential conflict of interest as a WVLT board member.

It was discussed for what length of time the contract would be approved for. It was decided that it would be put up for a one year trial and that the Town Board could then review it and decide whether to put it up for a five year approval.

Lynn Bowdery recused herself from the discussion due to potential conflict of interest as a WVLT employee.

Fawn Tantillo moved that: CWOSP recommend to the Town Board that they accept the proposal for a contract with WVLT to hire them to monitor all town held Conservation Easements and to: create on an as needed basis new baselines, create condition reports and a monitoring plan for the former Sunset Ridge property and perform annual monitoring of that property. CWOSP also recommends capping spending at 5,000 dollars as per the limitations of CWOSP's proposed 2012 budget.

Second by: Seth McKee

Vote: unanimous in favor

Public Comment Policy Discussion will be moved to the next meeting.

Web Site- Guy Visk's Input:

It was discussed that the existing website be updated to increase the availability of information and transparency to the public. Guy Visk has agreed to make the website based on member's input. Denis Moore a former member has also volunteered his services as a website designer.

It was decided that members will bring ideas for what they would like to see on the website to the next meeting.

New Business:

The grant from the National Park Service was discussed for assistance on the Millbrook Preserve. Seth McKee will contact National Park Service consultant Karl Beard as to the status of the grant.

Public Comments:

Jeffrey Perls suggested that a more interactive Public Comment Policy would be beneficial to both the Commission and the public. He also suggested that the chair have discretion to limit comments if they became unproductive when needed.

Gabrielli Presentation- Discuss Ranking:

Marty Irwin moved that CWOSP go into Executive Session. The reason for this is to evaluate a potential land for the Town to acquire, disclosure of which would substantially affect the value thereof.

Second By: Brad Barclay

Vote: unanimous in favor

Motion to move out of executive session was made by Fawn Tantillo.

Second By: Brad Barclay

In executive session the ranking of the property was discussed and Marty Irwin will respond to Gabrielli.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Doug McBride at 9:20.

Second By: Tom O'Dowd

Next Meeting will be held on December 14th, 2011.