

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of April 13, 2016, at the Community Center

Members Present: Brad Barclay, Kevin Borden, Lynn Bowdery, Marion DuBois, Richard Fiesel, John Gotto, Cara Lee, Seth McKee, Dennis Moore

Town Officials: Marty Irwin, Town of New Paltz Board liaison to CWOSP Comm.

Public present: No member of the public was present.

Minutes taken by: Lynn Bowdery, CWOSP Commission member and Secretary.

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:10 PM by Chairman Dennis Moore

2. Public comments: No public comments were made.

3. Review, amend & approve minutes: **Marion moved to approve** the minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting as submitted. Seth McKee seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. Introduce Supervisor Bettez: Supervisor Bettez was unable to attend.

5. Mill Brook Preserve update: Chairman Dennis Moore warmly acknowledged Town Board member Marty Irwin's successful efforts to persuade the Town Board to protect its Mill Brook Preserve parcels with a conservation easement. The Village chose to use the parkland designation to protect their parcel instead. Through the efforts of Marty and Stuart Glenn, Bruce McKinney donated \$50,000 toward the Mill Brook Preserve (MBP) no strings attached. This unexpected money will be used to cover the costs of the Town and Village conservation easements and other MBP expenses. The New Paltz Community Foundation can accept tax deductible donations for MBP until the Friends of the Mill Brook Preserve (FOMBP) incorporate and get their 501(c)3 status, which can take a while to achieve. Mr. McKinney is interested in the possibility of a memorial walk on MBP: it involves an app on cell phones that can bring up an audio or video telling the stories of people who have died. As MBP evolves, Mr. McKinney might contribute more funding. The FOMBP needs more board members, and will discuss the Memorial Trail idea and its compatibility with the vision of the Preserve. The Town Board will issue a formal resolution of thanks to Mr. McKinney for his generous donation. Cara Lee suggested that a newspaper story would bring added appreciation for the MBP and open space preservation. Peter Bienstock is still committed to fundraising. Regarding the actual conservation easement, Dennis sees CWOSP Commission as the chief advisory body to work out the terms of what is permitted and what is not.

FOMBP will incorporate as Mill Brook Preserve, Inc., and will be the entity that oversees the MBP. The certificate of incorporation went to the lawyers today. MBP, Inc. will have a contractual relationship with the municipalities, and it will have an executive director. Julie Seyfert Lillis has been appointed to be Executive Director. Cara asked about liability insurance. Dennis said that options are being explored. Cara recommended that the board develop a management operative plan with policies and its visions for the preserve spelled out. This would put it in a better position for grant applications. Possibly the CFA grant could be refreshed and tried again.

There has been a bequest to the MBP from the Doug and Nancy McBride Endowment.

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6. Shepler, Sussdorf, and Webb adjacent properties: Dennis Moore has been thinking how trail easements could be gotten on properties between Moriello Park and MBP that would improve access. The Town Board is willing to delegate the work of contacting landowners concerning trail easements or possible purchase. Dennis asked if anyone would be willing to talk to landowners. Brad offered to do it. There was a suggestion that we should make a map and study the adjacent parcels for trail access potential. Seth McKee said he still feels he doesn't have clarity about the Town's will to use the remaining Open Space Bond. Lynn Bowdery suggested we study the map again since most of the parcels we tested our criteria guidelines on have been preserved now, mostly by Open Space Institute. What else is out there that the Town might approve using the Bond for? Richard Fiesel mentioned that there was an upcoming tax sale on a 61 acre parcel on North Ohioville Road.

7. Wallkill River Watershed Alliance request for donation: WRWA requests a town membership fee of \$1,000. Marty Irwin feels that CWOSP Comm. should make a recommendation for the Town Board. Cara thinks that it is mission creep for CWOSP to get heavily involved, and that WRWA should craft a more credible ask and go to the Town Board directly. Marty Irwin is on the WRWA Advisory Board and John Gotto is on the Science Committee. Seth wondered why it shouldn't be in the realm of the EnCB to advocate for it. John would like to see the official ask (funding request) like a membership subscription.

8. Real Estate Transfer Tax: Chairman Dennis Moore asked if anyone is interested in developing the concept and bringing to the Town Board to push through-- it has to be approved by the State legislature. The real estate lobby comes out against it. Richard asked whether agricultural lands are included. Seth said that in Warwick and Red Hook the town supervisors pushed hard for it. There has to be a town referendum before it can go to the state. This is a matter to discuss with Matt Zeiper of the Trust for Public Land.

9. Prospective Commission Members: The CWOSP Commission is two members short and the Town's advertisements got no response. Kevin Borden suggested a possible candidate, a lawyer who is relatively new in town; he will talk to him. Seth has another possibility in mind and will talk to him, too.

10. Other business: The Earth Day Fair in New Paltz is on April 16, 2016. Leaders of the local religious institutions are now involved.

11: New Business: None

12: Adjournment: Brad Barclay moved that the meeting be adjourned. Cara Lee seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.