

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of August 17, 2016, at the Community Center

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

Town Officials: None

Invited Guests: Andrew Titus, potential CWOSP Commission member, and Christie DeBoer, Executive Director of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust

Public present: None.

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

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:08 PM by Chairman Dennis Moore

2. Public comments: There were no public comments.

3. Review, amend & approve minutes: After a brief discussion, Cara Lee moved to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2016 meeting as amended. Seth McKee seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. Introduction of Andrew Titus: The members introduced themselves to Andrew Titus and he told us a bit about himself. He moved to New Paltz a year ago from the Nyack, NY area. He is a lawyer and runs his own business providing legal technical services. He has three children and met member Kevin Borden through kids' soccer. He lives on DuBois Road. Cara Lee filled him in on the history and purpose of the Open Space bond vote, the Open Space Plan, and the CWOSP Commission.

At 7:23 PM, Seth McKee recused himself and left the room to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

5. Taliaferro Farm update -- Christie DeBoer, Wallkill Valley Land Trust: Christie DeBoer reported on the WVLT/Scenic Hudson (SH) grant application to buy the development rights of Taliaferro Farm. They tried for three grants, and none were approved. None were granted for any Ulster County applications. WVLT and SH reviewed the old application and are working on a plan for a three-way grant with the county providing 1/3, the Open Space Bond 1/3, and SH 1/3. There were appraisals done already.

At 7:35 PM Seth McKee returned to the meeting.

At 7:40 PM Andrew Titus and Christie DeBoer left the meeting.

At 7:41 PM Brad Barclay made a resolution that the meeting go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Seth McKee seconded the motion. The executive session ended at 7:45PM

At 7:46 PM, Andrew Titus and Christie DeBoer returned to the meeting.

Not on agenda: Christie DeBoer inquired about the payment of a bill for stewardship services that WVLT had submitted to the Town of New Paltz. Dennis Moore said he would look into it.

6. MillBrook Preserve Update: The background of the Mill Brook Preserve was described for Andrew Titus, and the present work on issues with the Town and Village governments regarding protecting the properties forming the Preserve with conservation easements (CEs). Dennis Moore explained that the

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Village has appointed the Village Planner to be the point person on the CE on the Village's property. After the CEs are completed, the next step is to make a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Town, the Village, and the non-profit org. Mill Brook Preserve, Inc. on the division of powers and obligations. Christie DeBoer mentioned that she is making sure that other existing easements on the properties identified by the title reports will not impact the protections of the CEs. The next step is that the Town has to vote to send the draft CE on its two parcels to the Town Attorney for his review. When the CE is back from the attorney, there will be more tweaks, and then hopefully onward to finalization. Cara Lee wondered what MBP, Inc. thought about the water rights issue. Dennis replied that MBI, Inc is totally opposed to the possibility of drilling for water in the Preserve, that it harms the sanctuary. Seth McKee reminded us that the Town land was purchased with the **Clean Water** and Open Space Bond money. Cara Lee added that if we want to be at the table influencing where and how any drilling for water is done, it is not helpful to be rigidly opposed to anything.

7. Possible Moriello Park pathway: Dennis mentioned that Marty hopes to get the Town and Village CEs done first; there are lots of details to take care of first.

8. CFA grant application: Village Planner David Gilmour is working on a new CFA grant application. Although MBP, Inc. was initially against applying for a CFA grant, it was persuaded to back the application after learning that the purchase of the Village's part counted toward the matching funds. The application is for \$400,000. When and if the grant is obtained we will know more. An announcement will be made sometime in October.

9. Strategic Plan: It was decided that it be deferred to a later meeting. Cara Lee said we should revisit the Open Space Plan and see how close we have come to the goals, and see what is still the most vulnerable. to discuss at our next meeting. Also to look at the areas west of the Thruway.

10. Possible Scenic Hudson Partnership: See above, item V.

11: Other Prospective Commission Members: None so far. The person Richard Fiesel was thinking of is too involved in his business.

12: Other Business: None

13. New Business: None

14: Adjournment: Brad Barclay moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Gotto seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8.35 PM.