

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of September 14, 2016, at the Community Center

Members Present: Brad Barclay, Kevin Borden, Lynn Bowdery, Marion DuBois, Richard Fiesel, John Gotto, Dennis Moore, Andrew Titus

Town Officials: Marty Irwin, Town Board member

Invited Guests: Christie DeBoer, Executive Director of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust
Pete Taliaferro, Robin Taliaferro, farmers in New Paltz

Public present: None.

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

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:05 PM by Chairman Dennis Moore

2. Public comments: There were no public comments.

3. Review, amend & approve minutes: After a brief discussion, Brad Barclay moved to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2016 meeting as amended. Richard Fiesel seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. Welcome Andrew Titus: Applause.

8. Other Business: (Out of order for the convenience of our guests) Pete and Robin Taliaferro brought in a Town of New Paltz Cooperative Conservation Program Landowner Interest Application Form with letters of support and a petition with pages of signatures and emails. They are interested in selling development rights to their farm property.

At 7:10 John Gotto arrived.

At 7:10 Lynn Bowdery recused herself from the meeting due to the involvement of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust in this application. Lynn works for the WVLTL. Kevin Borden took notes:

Pete and Robin Taliaferro filled out the CWOSP Landowners Conservation Interest Application Form. After reviewing the application form, the Taliaferros discussed the possibility of a joint funding process to purchase development rights in order to protect the land in perpetuity. The initial, unofficial plan is to secure 1/3 of the funding from Ulster County, 1/3 of the funding from the Town of New Paltz Open Space bonding authority, and 1/3 of the funding from Scenic Hudson.

The potential scale of the overall purchase would be in the range of \$360,000. This would place the specific ask for usage of the TofNP's Bonding Authority to be \$120,000.

Dennis Moore led a discussion about the point and rating system that CWOSP currently uses. The next steps in terms of CWOSP is that Dennis would email around Taliaferro's Application to the full Commission. Dennis would be CWOSP's point of contact with the Taliaferro's directly moving forward.

Not noted when Lynn Bowdery was called back to the meeting.

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5. Mill Brook Preserve update: The Town Attorney, Joe Moriello, has reviewed the proposed conservation easement for MBP and just returned it with comments but no one has seen it yet. Incursions on the proposed protected area still continue to appear as members of the Town Board think of new rights to reserve. Marty Irwin reported that the Supervisor, Neil Bettez, would like to reserve the possibility of putting a road across the edge of the Town's property between Cooper Street and Sunset Ridge Road. Marty informed him of the problems involved in doing it- It disrupts many prior agreements, a shale ridge would have to be levelled. Neil will be bringing it up at the Town Board meeting of Sept. 18. Dennis Moore is planning on going to that meeting to advocate for MBP.

Christine DeBoer added that the metes and bounds have not yet been put in the CE document yet, because areas to be excluded have not yet been decided.

Kevin Borden suggested that CWOSP's role can go beyond just acquiring open space. It seems like CWOSP might be justified in making a position statement on what is happening to the land whose purchase we recommended. Richard Fiesel added that we are charged with advising the town, and to have our advice in the public record. Much discussion followed about why such a road would be built. The consensus was to wait and see what develops before thinking about making statements.

6. Strategic Plan workshop: Lynn Bowdery said that there are only two more Character Areas, North Woods and Wetlands, and Orchards, Farms, and Ridge Views, left whose protection goals have not been met. We should study them and see if we can identify parcels of interest.

Kevin Borden suggested that the Open Space Plan could be studied and tweaked-- we could be considering buffers, and impacts on health, flooding. Lynn added that anything we look at can also be helpful to any work on Comprehensive Plan and zoning realignment with it.

Dennis Moore asked how do we organize and produce a coherent product? He offered to be the repository of emails of our ideas on review.

Richard Fiesel suggested we take note of patterns of For Sale signs, which could indicate development threat-- something we might have a longer horizon, decades.

In emails to Dennis (dm@dmstrategies.com) put **open space update** in the subject line.

A digital version of the Taliaferro application will be circulated - take a hard look.

7. Other prospective Commission members: There is still room for one more member. Keep looking.

9. New business: None

10: Adjournment: Kevin Borden moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Gotto seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.