

DRAFT

Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission
Monthly Meeting

May 14, 2008

In Attendance: Brad Barclay, Jim Hyland, Seth McKee, Lynn Bowdery, Marion DuBois, Bob Gabrieli, Jim DeLaune, David Jones, and alternate member Fawn Tantillo

Absent: Dennis Moore, Joan Barker, Cara Lee [?]

Meeting called to order: 7:15PM

Debriefing on the withdrawal of applicants for Farmland Protection Grants and PDR by CWOSP Commission: Jim Hyland thought that his applicants were not really ready to start the process, but that the owner of the land was not interested in selling to a developer. The parcel is not in danger of going out of farming soon, no sense of urgency. Seth said only that CWOSP might not have the money later. Brad said the owner should understand that if the property is inherited, estate taxes on the property could be too high to sustain farming. More leisurely discussions can be had concerning this parcel without the pressure of the grant deadline.

Regarding the other applicant, Seth said that the appraisal of \$11,000 per acre was relatively high, but the applicant did not think it was enough to meet their financial planning goals.

The members reviewed the list of land owners of parcels over 20 acres and identified the character areas the parcels were in.

There was a brief discussion of confidentiality and what is required for FOIL public information. Fawn Tantillo explained that at county they summarized emails to go in the minutes.

Members will try to have personal conversations with people we know who own parcels which would rate high on our priorities for preservation.

Seth will talk to Dennis Moore to develop publicity ideas for CWOSP, to increase public awareness.

The proposed Millbrook Preserve was discussed—its history and whether the CWOSP Commission should consider buying land to make the Preserve happen. There was no strong consensus of opinion.

Letterhead for the CWOSP Commission was discussed. It should have the Town seal on it. Seth will show some Open Space Committee letterhead to Dennis.

Bob Gabrieli left the meeting. The meeting continued without him to discuss the fact that he has himself made an application to the CWOSP Commission for a property he owns

on Dug Road. Fawn Tantillo asked if this was an occasion when she also should leave because she is not officially a commission member. [I have no record of whether she did leave or why] The remaining members discussed the issues involved—would Bob Gabrielli have to recuse himself from considering his own application. Jim DeLaune said that he should resign from the Commission because we must have absolute clarity and trust.

MOTION by Jim DeLaune: It is the policy of the Commission that it will not entertain any application by any Commission member.

SECOND by David Jones.

VOTE: All in favor.

There was a brief discussion about public access on lands protected with an easement purchased with public funds. Orange County makes it a requirement, but it is accomplished by a side agreement for access one day a year, by appointment only. Our law does not seem to require public access.

The meeting was adjourned at _____ [I didn't note the time. Sometime after 9 PM]

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Bowdery, CWOSP Commission Member