

**Public Hearing- proposal to buy Sunset Ridge
January 4, 2010**

Present: Kitty Brown, Jane Ann Williams Toni Hokonson

Councilwoman Brown moved to open the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Roger Ruloff thanked John Orcutt for his generous offer. It is generous and it is affordable. There are great benefits here – done something other municipalities have not done. It is a model. Mr. Ruloff hopes 63 acre parcel stays whole. Let us do it.

Todd Wiedenkeller – lives near school son is a student. Repeats thanking John Orcutt and New Paltz Planning Board for consideration of that . At opening meeting last spring, there was lot of outcry against Stoneleigh Woods. Air quality, traffic – 150 homes. In March John O said New Paltz needed to be more progressive thinking open space center fits that bill. Land set aside requires vision, forward thinking. Schools are full- growth has occurred. If new Paltz has resources and vision to purchase land – Todd’s vote is yes.

Maggie Ramirez – representative of Sunset Ridge Coalition – fought development for 20 years. Today is a great day thanked everyone. Unique opportunity here we can protect and preserve important community resource. Take advantage of this opportunity – thanks to everyone.

Ruth Elwell – not a neighbor of property – supports proposal – fiscally responsible for Town Board to do. Residential development is tax negative – would not cost tax payers of New Paltz money. Part of Millbrook greenway included in this proposal at no cost to taxpayers.

Mike Zierler – wonderful opportunity – he strongly encourages Town Board to approve.

If approving, assess if limited section might be suitable for development to offset cost. At least 3000 acres needs to be as per open space plan. Do not limit to residential development – Thank to everyone

Al Wegener, arborist – worked for Village not all beautiful as piece of property – agrees with Mike Zeiler important to take science-based approach. Plan for its use should consider having conservation and recreation work together. Thank you very much.

Bob Hughes – has walked the land since the 90’s – strongly recommends Town Board purchase land for all its citizens. Lot of benefit to be made from doing nothing until all studies are in. An investment in the environment – need to keep abreast of climate change – 63 acre part of 143 acre applauds John Orcutt and everyone.

Dea Regen – both her and husband science teachers need to think about science lesson for school children – thank you.

Lyle Nolan from Hummel Rd – speak against to divide off and make money. It is to protect our life – not what we fought for.

David Porter – involved with struggle for many years – impressed with community turn out.

Fiscal issue – concerned more with recreation issue – school tax cost -\$500,000 (which is close to price) Terrific investment urges town board to do this

Rachel Lagodka – priceless- you can not put a price on it. Purpose was to preserve land – concerned to hear develop part of it.

Nancy Katz – adding fiscal consideration – could grant application for environmental reasons – could help with some of the money.

Jacob Lawrence – Bonticou view Rd –encouraged the Board to buy the property and preserve it. Walked it 100 times – all of it is beautiful.

David Yakim, SUNY student and member of Village environmental committee. Walks it Proving to be a bird habitat – hope we preserve all of it.

Bob DeGiacomo – who will own after it is bought?

Supervisor Hokanson explained to Bob.

KT Tobin Flusser – supports, thank the developer for seeing that this was not kint the interest of their original. Parcel is appropriate for preservation quality of life issue for New Paltz thanks to everyone.

Daniel Torres – New Paltz is a unique community – preserving land and culture – would like to keep it that way.

Harry Ramirez – College professor took class to area – best way to teach

Supervisor Hokanson moved to close Public Hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes

Supervisor Hokanson moved to authorize her to sign contract for sale and purchase of land, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes.

SEQR review – 60 days to complete

Councilwoman Brown thanked the voters for the Open Space bond.

Councilwoman Williams thanked Cara and Seth.

At 7:39 PM Supervisor Hokanson opened the meeting with the pledge.

At 7:47 PM Councilwoman Brown moved to declare the Town Lead Agency on 63 acres from Sunset Ridge LLC. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

2010 ReOrganization Meeting followed