

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of May 10, 2017, at the Community Center

Members Present: Brad Barclay, Kevin Borden, Lynn Bowdery, Richard Fiesel, John Gotto, Seth McKee, Dennis Moore, and Andrew Titus

Town Officials: Marty Irwin, Town Councilman

Public present: No one

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: None

3. Review, amend & approve minutes: Richard Fiesel moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting as amended. Brad Barclay seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. Welcome to Thomas Wiener: Prior to the meeting Tom informed us that he had a conflicting work-related meeting and would be unable to attend, but he did not anticipate any other conflicts.

5. Taliaferro application: Dennis Moore reported that the new appraisal resulted in an increase of \$22,000 to a value of \$387,000 for the development rights to the Taliaferro Farm, bringing each of the three shares to purchase the development rights to \$129,000. Pete Taliaferro wants to make some changes to the conservation easement document and is working with Christie DeBoer of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust on it. There is a May 30 deadline for getting the wording on the easement finalized.

6. Mill Brook Preserve update: Dennis Moore reported that Village Board member Rebecca Rotzler and WVLTL Director Christie DeBoer have been working on getting the conservation easement finalized. There might be a vote by the Village Board on it tonight. High School students wish to work on Mill Brook Preserve improvements, and they can go forward without there being a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or a final Recreation Plan in place. The lack of a sufficiently detailed map is holding up the Rec. Plan. The MOA is very close to completion and moving forward. Dennis is optimistic, but had hoped to have an opening celebration for MBP by now.

7. Possible recommendations from the Open Space Protection Plan: and

8. Mission assessment: Dennis recollected that at the beginning there had been an advertising campaign and people had been invited to come and learn about the advantages on open land preservation and purchase of development rights. CWOSP should put forward another campaign to raise awareness and invite applications for purchase of development rights. There was consensus that this was a good way of moving forward; Seth suggested that the idea be floated past the Town Board to assess the Town's appetite for using the Open Space Bond. Town Board Liaison Marty Irwin mentioned that he had heard a presentation from Scenic Hudson regarding a GIS-based tool to develop a strategic evaluation framework for priority land acquisitions. Andrew Titus suggested taking a geographic approach, sending a flier to landowners in the character areas that haven't had any open space preservation activity, yet. Kevin Borden brought up the idea of open space as a buffer. Lynn Bowdery mentioned that the Town's Cluster Subdivision law created big enforcement problems with its provision that the buffers be included in the required conservation easement, which produces a CE covering many different properties and not necessarily protecting important open space. The discussion turned again to raising awareness of the importance of open space protection and outreach. Brad Barclay suggested considering what partners we might involve to leverage the Town's bond money. Seth added that we might invite people to meet, either east of the Wallkill, or the whole town. Richard Fiesel mentioned that the horse ranch on North Ohioville Road had an annual block party, and that CWOSP might become involved. Brad suggested approaching Twin Star Orchards, and also looking into piggybacking on the state 480a forestry program. Dennis said

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that as an action plan CWOSP should write a news release about the Open Space Plan to revive applications. Seth thought it was better to send invitations to a targeted audience. Dennis said that repetition reinforces messages. Kevin added that we should invite someone from the moratorium committee to a CWOSP meeting. John Gotto added that many people in town have no awareness of the Open Space Plan or other studies and plans done in the past. Lynn suggested telling the story of what the CWOSP Commission has been doing for the last 10 years and getting a feature story in the newspaper. Lynn will start putting together a time line from our records. Brad mentioned that lately developers in the region have been going for large, very expensive lots. Kevin brought up that there are more potential sources of money for open space protection, such as the real estate transfer tax. Seth said that the public is willing to pay to preserve places they can go to, like trails and parks, and to protect farms. Andrew added that a public-friendly project will raise interest.

Actions:

Kevin will invite someone from the Gateway Moratorium Committee to come to a meeting.

Brad is the co-chair of the Neighborhood Business District Committee and would be happy to brief CWOSP on its proceedings.

Dennis will contact Supervisor Neil Bettez, then write up an outreach document for mailing and/or news release.

Lynn will develop a time line of open space accomplishments.

9. Other business: Lynn brought up the fact that WVLT has not yet been paid for most of the stewardship work completed in 2016. Dennis said that he has recently learned about the bill submission process from Marty Irwin and will be acting on it. The voucher approval process was something that the Zimet administration did. Marty will take care of it this year. The WVLT Stewardship proposal for 2017 was given to Marty for him to bring to Neil Bettez.

10. New business: None.

11. Adjournment: Seth McKee moved that the meeting be adjourned; Andrew Titus seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.