Town of New Paltz Open Space Committee

Minutes of the January 10, 2007 meeting – REVISED VERSION

Present: Ellen M. Bennett (Sect.), Ray Curran, Marion DuBois, David Jakim, Judy Joffee, Rachel Lagodka, Cara Lee, Seth McKee (Co-chair), Bob Taylor, Michael Zierler (Co-chair)

This meeting was held in Village Hall, and started at 7:40PM. Minutes of the December meeting were reviewed.

1. **Budget Update**:
The budget is approximately $78,000 for 2007. There are funds allotted for bond implementation/administration; associated consultant costs of bond implementation and the like. There are funds allotted for the Mill Brook Preserve project which the Village will be contributing to as well.

*MICHAEL will look into off set printing costs for additional copies of the Open Space Plan.
*MICHAEL will get Rachel a copy of the OS Plan.
It was suggested that copies of the Plan be given to the high school and middle school.

2. **Mill Brook Preserve**:
Michael distributed an interim report drafted by Nan Stolzenberg noting that this is not a technical report. It provides general guidelines and perspective about the Preserve project that they (Nan) will be using throughout. It explains a science-based, watershed/sub-watershed approach to developing recommendations about the Preserve. This report contains a specific look at some of the streams around the Woodland Pond project and makes some general recommendations. The report provides perspective about what's important in order to have preserve that maintains the qualities it has now, improve what's been diminished and protect it over the long term. The report further provides perspectives about the things that need to be considered to do the aforementioned, and there are suggestions included about things that can be done for any development to achieve these goals. Seth noted that this report articulates why the Mill Brook Preserve is important.
*MICHAEL will send the PDF of this report to everyone.

Following a brief review of the report Ray voiced his disappointment with the content noting that the report isn't specific in a technical way. Michael noted that Nan was not intending to get technically specific, but rather she was hoping that the Planning Board would use this to work with an engineer and other consultants to make sure that some of the included recommendations get considered. Cara noted that the report does a good job outlining the importance of the resource, but she inquired about who is expected to do the mapping/wetlands delineation (Nan? developer?). Ray noted that the recommendations are things that we already knew and that the report provides little assistance in achieving the technical knowledge that is needed for us to be effective. He was hoping Nan would provide some technical recommendations as to how the site plan (Woodland Pond) could be done. With regard to ecological aspects, Ray had hoped that Nan might have provided Al Wegener some techniques that could be applied; this would have been helpful for Al to have when working with Chazen. Ray noted that much of the content of the report is already outlined in the EIS and is self-evident. Cara commented that there is a need for someone to take the Woodland Pond project from "conceptual to site plan". There is also a big concern about the embankment on the project and what will occur in that location.

Seth & Michael clarified that, as previously discussed, the Planning Board needs to consider whether they would like to continue to work with Nan in an effort to get more specific detail about implementation. The Open Space Committee does not have the funding for additional implementation work and that was not the intended scope of Nan's work for the Open Space Committee. Seth & Michael reiterated that a next step toward technical techniques for implementation/restoration for the Preserve would be for the Planning Board to decide whether they want to hire Nan Stolzenberg et al for this additional work. Marion noted that this was a good document to introduce to the Planning Board for their consideration and to begin the discussion about continuing the work with Nan.

Together with Nan, Michael & Seth are trying to set up individual landowner meetings in January.

Regarding Woodland Pond developers discussing conservation easements with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, more information and detail is needed prior to these discussions.

3. **Bond Implementation**:
Cara & Michael visited with Seymour Gordon of Warwick. He helped drive the farmland preservation process in Warwick. He discussed dos & don'ts, and recommended that the Town pass legislation that sets up the parameters for borrowing money. Warwick has protected much farmland without spending any of their bond funds through other borrowing methods, grants and partnerships as well as taxation. Seymour is willing to come and speak about Warwick's experience.
*MICHAEL will send Warwick documents to all. They can also be found on the Town of Warwick website.

Seth redistributed an outline of recommendations for the Town Board as relates to forming the Bond Commission. These recommendations are due to the Supervisor by January 15th. It was asked that Equestrians be added to the recommendations under Recreation interests (#3-c-vi)
*SETH will create a narrative version of the OSC recommendations for the Town Board.

4. **Build-out Analysis**:
John Behan gave a presentation to the OS Committee in December. Behan was going to be making the revisions to his presentation that were recommended at that meeting.
Behan Associates presentation to the Town Board on the Build-out analysis project will be given on February 15th, NOT January 25th. The Village Board will be invited to this presentation.

5. **Presentation to Green Party on Open Space Plan and Bond**:
If time permitted Seth & Michael planned to give a brief presentation to the Green Party on the Open Space Plan and Bond.

Open Space Committee Meeting Length:
In the interest of attendance and Open Space Committee membership it was recommended that the meetings be concluded by or before 9PM.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Bennett
EnCC & OSC Secretary