

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of October 11, 2017, at the Community Center

Members Present: Brad Barclay, Lynn Bowdery, Richard Fiesel, Michael Knutson, Seth McKee, Dennis Moore, and Tom Weiner

Town Officials: Town Board Liaison Marty Irwin

Public present: None

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

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:07 PM by Chairman Dennis Moore

2. Public comments: None.

3. Review, amend and approve minutes of previous meeting: Seth McKee asked that the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting be amended to indicate the time he arrived at the meeting, 8:10PM, after the discussion of the Taliaferro Farm application. Richard Fiesel moved that those minutes be approved as amended. Tom Weiner seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. Welcome newest CWOSP Board member, Michael Knutson: Michael was heartily welcomed aboard.

5. Announcement-- Seth McKee: Seth McKee, one of the founding members of the CWOSP Commission, announced that he is resigning. He recounted that he started with the Open Space Committee in 2001, co-chaired it, and later it morphed into the CWOSP Commission. His son, who was a toddler when he joined is now in college. Besides, Michael Knutson, also from Scenic Hudson, is now on the board. Seth assured the Commission that he will still be available for consultation if any questions arise that require his knowledge and experience.

Brad Barclay thanked Seth for his work and said that it was great to have Michael now.

Dennis Moore said that he can't thank Seth enough for all he has done for New Paltz.

Lynn Bowdery added that we are lucky to have Seth's vision and involvement in open space protection in New Paltz.

Seth will submit a formal letter of resignation and Marty Irwin will bring it to the Town Board for its acceptance.

Brad moved that there be a resolution of appreciation for Seth's contributions.

Michael Knutson seconded the motion. All approved.

Dennis will write something up for the Commission to review.

At this point, Seth left the meeting.

6. Taliaferro application: Dennis updated the Commission on the progress of the Taliaferro application. He and Wallkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT) Director Christie DeBoer submitted the application to the Town Board on Thursday, October 5. The Town Board accepted it enthusiastically and moved to submit it for a public hearing November 2nd. Brad commented that momentum for agricultural easements is growing in our region. Michael Knutson recused himself during discussion of the Taliaferro application and returned when it was concluded.

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7. Palmateer conservation easement: Dennis reported that the water exploration agreement with the Palmateers, which might have led to a violation of the conservation easement which the Town purchased in 2009 with Open Space Bond money and a matching amount from Open Space Institute, has been revoked by the Palmateers. Dennis said that the Town Supervisor, Neil Bettez, said that no water drilling action will be taken on this property.

8. Gateway Project: Neither Kevin Borden or John Gotto are at tonight's meeting. Kevin did go to a Gateway Committee meeting and said that CWOSP does have until November to submit a specific statement on open space resources. In the ensuing discussion, Lynn Bowdery mentioned that there were wetlands in the gateway area and suggested that perhaps protections for them could be increased. John and Kevin will prepare a statement to submit on behalf of the CWOSP Commission.

9. Mill Brook Preserve update: Dennis Moore provided an update on progress. The next step is that the draft Recreation Plan for each conservation easement area (because there are slight differences in the two easements) must be approved by the Town and Village of New Paltz, and by WVLT and Mill Brook Preserve, Inc. (MBP, Inc.) The paper work for the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Town, Village and MBP, Inc. is complete. Marty Irwin will meet with Dennis to work on the contents and what participants are needed to produce the MOAs between the Town, MBP, Inc. and WVLT; between the Village, MBP, Inc. and WVLT; and possibly two-party MOAs between MBP, Inc. and the Town and Village.

10. Revving up public outreach for land preservation: Brad Barclay described the fields in its data base that Ulster County Real Property Office can sort by to produce a list of landowners that CWOSP Commission might reach out to for future land preservation projects. Ulster County charges for its services. Marty will ask the Town Assessor, Tricia Masterson, what she could do to produce a mailing list from the Real Property data base.

11. Other business: Dennis has been contacted by someone interested in joining the CWOSP Commission. Dennis will circulate information.

12. New business: None.

13. Adjournment: Brad Barclay moved that the meeting be adjourned. Tom Weiner seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.