

Town of New Paltz Open Space Committee

Minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting.

Present: Marion DuBois, Kathleen Healey, Cara Lee, Seth McKee (Co-chair), Ellen M. Sticker (Sect.), Bob Taylor, Michael Zierler (Co-chair)

This meeting was held in Village Hall, and started at 7:40PM. The Town Board requested that the Open Space Committee (OSC) conduct interviews of possible candidates for the New Paltz Clean Water & Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP). The purpose of this meeting was to conduct interviews of candidates interested in serving on the CWOSP.

History of Open Space Committee: All candidates were given the following history and information leading up to the formation of the Commission.

- The Open Space Committee was an ad hoc committee created in 2000/2001.
- An Open Space Inventory was created in 2003
- Open Space Plan was passed in June 2006
- The public passed a 2 million dollar bond in November 2006
- In August 2007 the Town Board passed a law to create a Commission of 11 members whose purpose is, with the Town Board, to execute the elements of the Local Law Chapter 44 entitled "Agriculture and Open Space Preservation and Acquisition".
- o If more than 11 people are interested in serving on the Commission the Open Space Committee will recommend that those additional candidates serve as alternates.
- Town Board asked OSC to interview candidates for the CWOSP and make recommendations.
- The OSC will make recommendations to the Town Board this month (October 2007) with the Commission holding their first meeting in November 2007.
- Functions of the Commission are outlined in the Local Law. The Commission will have an opportunity to get up to speed on the Open Space Plan as well as the local law establishing the Commission.
- The Commission will likely meet monthly but may meet more frequently during busy times or may go on site visits from time to time.
- There is a budget for the Commission that will cover support costs i.e. administrative support, legal assistance, printing, deal packaging, etc.

Generally, all candidates were asked the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the New Paltz CWOSP?
2. Please describe the skills you would be able to contribute to the CWOSP?
3. Please describe other ways you have been involved in community matters in New Paltz, if any.
4. How much time would you be able to commit to CWOSP on a monthly basis?
5. Do you have any personal or financial relationships with potential applicants for CWOSP funding?
6. What types of land are you most interested in seeing conserved?
7. Are you a resident of the Town or Village of New Paltz, and where?

Dorothy Jessup: lives on Huguenot Street

Interest in serving:

- Moved here and stayed due to the physical environment
- Is consistent with other things she has done i.e. Sierra Club
- Agrees with the goals

Skills:

- Can talk to people of varying opinions and listens
- Is a former hiker

Community involvement:

Types of land interested in conserving:

- Maintaining character of the countryside.
- Preserving open space wherever we can (water, trees, fields)
- Protecting view from the ridge as well as the ridge itself.
- Likes the idea of voluntary preservation versus mandate.

Time commitment:

- Is OK with once or twice/month depending on her health.

Marion Dubois: Lives on Millrock

Interest in serving:

- Wants to continue this work and wants to keep using the knowledge she's gained
- This is her passion and what she really cares about

Skills:

- Knowledge from Town Board and Town & Village Planning Board work
- Knowledge gained from attending different meetings

Community involvement:

- Is on Village Planning Board

- Was Town Board member

- Worked on Wetlands Committee

Types of land interested in conserving:

- Corridors, continuity in ecosystems, wetlands & streams
- Foothills are extremely important

Time commitment:

- This would be her priority

What do you thing the challenges will be for the Commission?

- It may be difficult to convince people that there is a good reason for saying "no" to accepting certain properties, need to be able to explain why.

How do you feel about working with others to build consensus?

- It's important to have a variety of opinions. You have to listen to other points of view.

David Jones: lives on Old Kingston Road. Has lived here 11 years.

Interest in serving:

- Can bring a viewpoint that there might not be access to.
- Family has been trying to farm profitably for past 10 years and is intimately familiar with the issues facing small farmers

- Would like to get more involved

Skills:

- Is a quick study and can fill gaps where needed
- Not ego-driven and is easy to get along with
- Can be devil's advocate

Types of land interested in conserving:

- Would like to see community retain rural character
- Viewscapes
- Key smaller parcels that the views together

Time commitment:

- Can set own hours and is very flexible

Dennis Moore: lives on Calvin Blvd. off Mt. Rest Road. Has been a homeowner since 1981.

Interest in serving:

- Has long investment in the community (+30 years)
- Wants to see intelligent uses of land & resources and preserving community character

- Would like to do whatever he can to help preserve the area
- Long time contributor to The Nature Conservancy

Community involvement:

- New Paltz Rod & Gun Club
- Founding member of New Paltz Community Foundation; serves as Vice President now.
- New Paltz College Foundation; past President
- New Paltz Softball League – has been playing for 2 years.
- New Paltz Rural Cemetery Committee; assisting with marketing

Types of land interested in conserving:

Time commitment:

- Yes, is available

Profession:

- Background in advertising, public relations, marketing. Owned advertising agency in New Paltz.
- Now self employed consultant in Web Development, Web Design & Internet-related marketing
- Teaches at SUNY New Paltz part-time in Communications Dept. Teaches Public Relations to graduate students.

Dennis inquired what the criteria are for eligible lands.

Michael explained the tools in the Open Space Plan and that the Commission will determine details.

Joan Barker: lives on Calvin Blvd. off Mt. Rest Road.

Interest in serving:

- Shares Dennis's comments
- Comes from Long Island and knows development without thought.
- Future health of people has to be considered now (food, water)
- Can't let things get destroyed as you can't get them back
- Wants to preserve the balance

Skills:

- photographer

Community involvement:

- Works for Fresh Air Fund in Fishkill

Types of land interested in conserving:

Time commitment:

- Yes, is available

Profession:

Professor at SUNY New Paltz. Teaches photography & photo journalism. Is a photographer.

Following the interviews it was agreed that Michael would draft a letter to the Town Board recommending candidates. The letter will include candidate names and contact information. Ellen will get contact information from Guy and will forward to Michael.

All agreed that the Commission itself could interview additional candidates as necessary.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Sticker

Ellen M. Sticker (Bennett)

OSC Secretary

EnCC Secretary