

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of November 11, 2015, at the Community Center

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

Town Officials: Marty Irwin, Town of New Paltz Board liaison to CWOSP Comm.

Public present: No one

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

1. Meeting called to order at: 7.08 PM by Chairman Dennis Moore

2. Public Comments: No public comments were made.

3. Review & Approve Minutes: The minutes for the August and September 2015 meetings were briefly discussed. John Gotto moved to approve the minutes as written. Richard Fiesel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Mill Brook Preserve Update, including new trail by PIGLETS: Kevin Borden reported that there had been a meeting of the Friends of Mill Brook Preserve (MBP) group. They discussed the desirability to develop a K-12 curriculum and maybe college curriculum using the Preserve, that it would be good to have a small education center. Julie Lillis is meeting with people at Woodland Pond. They want to know what the rules at the Preserve will be. Research will be done on the rules and signage at other parks. Julie met with Duzine School Principal Debra Hogancamp; she is interested in putting MBP in the curriculum. The CFA Grants might be announced this month or in December. Dennis Moore's understanding is that Julie and Mike Lillis will work with the New Paltz Community Foundation temporarily under its fiscal sponsorship, with the Foundation acting as a conduit for donations to Mill Brook Preserve, so that donations can be tax deductible. Maybe later the Friends group will become its own 501(c)3 corporation. That status has its pluses and minuses- a corporate entity has liability protections. Marty Irwin mentioned Jon Katz's suggestion that they look into the cost of liability insurance. CWOSP could function as the Town sponsor to get Town liability coverage for Friends of MBP. Seth McKee said there are lots of Friends groups supporting parks-- they should be investigated for their experience and ideas-- meet with the Friends of the Great Swamp. Seth asked if there is going to be a Phase I Study as part of the due diligence for the Bienstock parcel purchase-- and a survey? Richard Feisel asked as a thought experiment if there should be trail markers in the Preserve that can be used in case of a 911 call to help locate someone if they needed to be rescued? Kevin will take the idea to the Friends' next meeting.

5. Greenway Trails Grant Update: MBP won a \$5,000 Greenway Trails Grant. Brad Barclay made a resolution that CWOSP Commission commend David Gilmour for his excellent work in obtaining the Greenway Grant for MBP, and thank the Village Board for allowing him to work on it. Lynn will put together the wording for it. Dennis will submit it to the Letters to the Editor of the New Paltz Times. Seth McKee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

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6. Stewardship & the Mohonk Conference: Chairman Dennis Moore praised the conference. His takeaway is that people are eager to support acquisition of open space, but stewardship is not charismatic and does not get support. Stewardship funding should be built into any acquisitions deal. For reimbursement, submit a request to Jean Gallucci with the receipt, in your capacity as a CWOSP Commission member.

7. Wallkill River Watershed Alliance Membership: No information is available yet on the cost of an institutional membership. It will wait until 2016.

8. Colangelo Property: Chairman Dennis Moore spoke with Harry Ellis of Quinn Realty. The property is in contract, the closing scheduled for next week, to be owned by the Bruderhof Church Community, which has expressed the intent to keep the property undeveloped. The New Paltz Rod and Gun Club did not know about the sale, but would still be interested in buying 20 acres as a buffer.

9. Additional Commission Members: Douglas McBride's term expires at the end of 2015. He is very ill. A discussion followed on how to recruit a new members. Richard Feisel suggested getting the message out to the public about what the MBP will be. It behooves CWOSP Comm. to clearly enunciate a vision for the Preserve. A possible future CWOSP Comm. role is to provide input in the Town's Master Plan, an update of which is being considered.

10. Other business: Seth McKee suggested that there be a celebration when the Bienstock parcel purchase has its closing.

11. New Business: None

12. Adjournment: Kevin Borden moved that the meeting be adjourned. Brad Barclay seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32PM.