

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of December 9, 2015, at the Community Center

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

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

Public present: Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Friends of Mill Brook Preserve

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, amend & approve minutes: Seth McKee moved that the November 2015 minutes be accepted with some minor corrections. Rich Fiesel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Mill Brook Preserve update, Julie Seyfert-Lillis: The Friends of Mill Brook Preserve (FOMBP) has draft by-laws. When the Village of New Paltz closes on the Bienstock parcel the preserve will reach George Danskin Drive. Tomorrow the CFA grant will be announced. Julie met with the Woodland Pond committee. A trailhead on Danskin Drive was suggested. Woodland Pond is not ready to grant public access yet on their property. Liability might be an issue there on privately held land.

The Steering Committee of FOMBP consists of Alex Bartholomew, Kevin Borden, Marty Irwin, Mike Lillis, Tim Rogers, and Julie Seyfert-Lillis. A free ranging discussion followed, touching on many topics. There is an inter-municipal agreement giving the Village the active role in managing MBP. What is FOMBP's liability exposures? How is its responsibility to make sure that donations to the preserve are actually used to develop the preserve going to be clarified and documented? The role of FOMBP is not completely set. Julie said that they would like to offer nature programs and interface with the schools and their curriculum. What about Wild Earth programs and summer camps? FOMBP want to have the Preserve monitored for the impacts of such activities, as there are concerns about the shelter building and fire making that are often part of Wild Earth programs. Fires would not be permitted, and shelter building has a high impact on the environment. Seth McKee said that Scenic Hudson has given Wild Earth permission to do activities in its parks, with clear rules and guidelines. Brad Barclay added that you need a permit system, require certificates of insurance, and monitor the use. Julie said that Peter Bienstock has been very helpful and advises them to "dream big," have a capital campaign for endowment and operating funds, have a staff person, have an education cabin, etc. There will be a capital campaign. A webmaster will donate work, and they are working with an artist to get a logo. Richard Fiesel suggested that the FOMPB come up with the rules and guidelines and present them to the Village Board for them to adopt. There is a \$5,000 Greenway grant for the access path from Mannheim Road, and Mohonk Preserve has given a \$2,000 grant for equipment and program help for teachers at Duzine school. There is now also an opportunity to have an access point from George Danskin Way. The webmaster can put in Google Map functionality on the website. Seth asked if there has been an announcement yet that the Village purchase has closed? Not as of this date.

5. CFA grant update: Not announced yet. (The awards were announced on Dec. 10, and we did not get the CFA grant for MBP)

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6. Doug's resignation, recognition: The CWOSP Commission is asking the Town and Village boards to issue a joint resolution recognizing Doug McBride for his contributions. The letter making this request was approved by consensus and is attached. The idea of having a plaque made with Doug's own words about why he worked to have the Woodland Pond viewing platform built was discussed. Dennis will inform Doug about the idea for the plaque.

7. New terms, swearing in, financial disclosures: Chairman Dennis Moore thanked those who handed in their financial disclosure forms and reminded people serving new terms to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

8. Additional Commission members: With the resignations of Doug McBride and Marty Irwin, the CWOSP Commission needs two more members. Kevin Borden has ideas about some people who could be invited to join. It was considered best to have the Town put an advertisement for the two positions and Kevin can encourage the people he has in mind to apply. Marty Irwin will ask Rosanna Mazzaccari, the Town Clerk, to post notice of the openings.

9. Wallkill River Watershed Alliance membership: There is no new information.

10. Possible meeting with new supervisor: Dennis would like to set up a coffee with the new Town Supervisor, an informal get-to-know-you meeting. He will set up a date with Neil Bettez and let members know in case they would like to join him.

11. January meeting and other meeting dates: Dennis asked if anyone thought we really needed to have a January meeting, since there is not any necessary business to be done. Lynn Bowdery made a motion that the CWOSP Commission not have a meeting in January 2014. Marion DuBois seconded that motion. All voted in favor. **The CWOSP Commission will continue to meet regularly on the second Wednesday of the each month, next January excepted.**

12. Other business: None

13. New Business: None

14. Adjournment: Seth McKee moved that the meeting be adjourned. Richard Fiesel seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

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Supervisor **Susan Zimet**
Deputy Supervisor **Jeff Logan**
Councilman **Kevin Barry**
Councilman **Daniel Torres**
Councilman **Marty Irwin**

December 10, 2015

Joint statement by the Boards of the Village of New Paltz and the Town of New Paltz commending Dr. Douglas McBride for his volunteer service on behalf of our community:

The Town and Village of New Paltz Boards would like to commend Dr. Douglas McBride for his volunteer service on behalf of our community as a member of the Clean Water and Open Space Preservation Commission (CWOSP).

Dr. McBride has been a tireless advocate who generously devoted his time and efforts to protecting New Paltz' cherished open spaces. His personal commitment has inspired countless others in ensuring that our community is a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Dr. McBride's commitment to open space can best be summed up by his reflection on one of the many important projects he spearheaded – development and construction of the viewing platform at Woodland Pond. He explained “I really enjoy spending time outdoors, and feel it is important to explore the world around us. I like to go down by the pond and observe the wildlife, insects, birds, butterflies, dragonflies, migrating water fowl and beavers that call the pond home. I initiated the project, as I wanted to share my experiences with others so they too could enjoy what I have come to love.” The platform overlooks an area, known as Mill Brook Preserve, which will now be forever protected, thanks to the efforts of Dr. McBride and others.

Dr. McBride's commitment to improve our community goes far beyond his time with CWOSP. Dr. McBride has also been a generous supporter of the New Paltz Community Foundation, the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and the Woodland Pond Foundation Committee. Dr. McBride also served as president of the Orange County Land Trust.

“Doug has spent his life caring for the environment, and for all creatures large and small. Doug is an integral member of the CWOSP Team creating the Mill Brook Preserve, and has been a leader in conserving Open Space both here in New Paltz and in Orange County.” Town Council Person Marty Irwin, Friend and Past Chair of CWOSP

The Village and Town Boards would like to express their deepest gratitude to Dr. McBride for his energetic and selfless service.

Susan Zimet
Supervisor