

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of June 8, 2016, at the Community Center

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

Town Officials: None

Public present: No member of the public was present.

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

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:10 PM by Chairman Dennis Moore

2. Public comments: No public comments were made.

3. Review, amend & approve minutes: After a brief discussion, Brad Barclay moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting as amended. Richard Feisel seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

4. Town Filing Cabinet: No news yet. Dennis Moore will follow up on it.

5. Mill Brook Preserve update: The Village of New Paltz wants to reserve the right to drill wells for a municipal water supply on its parcel. The rate of pumping foreseen would require 4 or 5 wells. Cara Lee wondered if there is something that we don't know about that is making the Village officials more concerned about water? The Town of New Paltz is working towards having a conservation easement for its Mill Brook Preserve properties. A management plan for the Preserve is needed, and the Town might also wish to retain water rights. A discussion of what possible impacts on the Preserve drilling and maintaining water wells might be. Kevin Borden observed that much is speculative now, nothing is definite yet. Dennis said that there would be a Mill Brook Preserve, Inc. (MBP, Inc.) fundraising cocktail party on June 26.

6. MillBrook Preserve Start-up Fund: MBP, Inc. is not moving forward with this idea.

7. Potential properties that could increase access to MBP: Julie Lillis has spoken to a property owner; Brad Barclay will follow up with the owner, and maybe Julie will too. Brad thinks that acquiring that parcel would be good for Mill Brook Preserve, with its connection to other properties for access. Dennis thinks another adjacent landowner will grant a trail easement for access.

8. CFA grant application: The Village Board and Village Planner invited MBP, Inc. to participate in its application. MBP, Inc., declined but offered much advice. The grant would be a 1 to 1 match—where would the matching funds come from? Also, these grants pay out very slowly—it can take years. The structure of CFA grants is very problematic. There are many requirements, some of which are very burdensome. Different sources and smaller grants could be more useful for the Mill Brook Preserve.

9. Strategic Plan: Deferred to a later meeting.

10. Possible Scenic Hudson Partnership: Scenic Hudson (SH) is exploring ways in which an Agricultural Easement on a 30 acre farm in New Paltz could be purchased. The benefits from saving this farm would be considerable for New Paltz, although not big enough for state or federal funding. SH has asked Ulster County about using its Open Space Fund, what about a 1/3 – 1/3- 1/3 split? Maybe WVL

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could hold the conservation easement. An application from SH, Taliaferro and WVLT could come to CWOSP. Cara Lee suggested looking to see if there is a possibility for having Community Gardens there—the Gardens for Nutrition is looking for another site due to the occasional flooding at its site by the Wallkill River.

11: Prospective Commission Members: Kevin Borden has a prospect who has expressed interest. Dennis will meet him and possibly invite him to a meeting.

12: Other Business: None

13. New Business: None

14: Adjournment: Richard Feisel moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seth McKee seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.