

**Town of New Paltz  
Clean Water and Open Space Preservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

**June 16, 2010**

Members present: Seth McKee, Marion DuBois, Brad Barclay, Marty Irwin, Fawn Tantillo, Lynn Bowdery, Cara Lee, Jim Delaune

Doug McBride (invited guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm by Seth McKee.

Guest speaker: Karl Beard- National Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, affiliated with the National Park Service.

Ms. Lee began by letting the Commission members know that Karl was born and raised in New Paltz. Mr. Beard began by describing his program. Works in communities that don't have national parks or state parks. Provides hands on technical assistance. Different from what most communities think they need. Also works with local municipalities. Works between sectors and between levels of government. Assistance is short term, limited to 2-3 years involvement in a community. Demand for work is fairly high. Briefly explained the application process. Application Guidelines were received and made a part of the record. The program tries to focus on success. He is the Director for all of New York State, excluding NYC. Currently is working on 4-5 projects in various phases. Mr. McKee asked for examples of projects he has worked on.

D & H Canal bicycle tourism project (experiment)

O & W Canal rail trail

Hyde Park Town trail system which connects 4 National parks

Also provides technical assistance on design issues. The Commission suggested discussing the Sunset Ridge property with him. 250 acres of woodland, much of Tributary 13 is included. They explained their involvement in this property to him. They intend to close on the property in July and then the Town will own it. Ms. Lee stated that after the public meeting the overall sentiment was to keep the property natural but accessible, passive recreational opportunities. Ms. Lee is concerned about the ability of the Town to provide long term management of the property. Wants an institutional framework to provide management into the future. Mr. McKee feels that they are fairly well involved in the concept, it will be the nuts and bolts that need to be figured out. Mr. Beard said his program would be helpful in designing a trail route and how to connect the trails into the community. Asked Mr. Beard for his thoughts and comments.

In sum, Beard thought the Millbrook Preserve will be a terrific asset, Commission is headed in a good direction, it will be a challenge to highlight natural assets without too much impact, and that an appropriate trails and access plan will be needed. Ms. Lee feels that mountain bikes would be too destructive through there. Ms. Bowdery stated that she got the sense from the public meeting that this should be kept as a park for the local New Paltz community and a way for people to commute locally. Mr. Beard explained that it is important to design an overall emergency response plan. Mr. McKee asked if he thinks there is a viable project here. Mr. Beard thinks there is. Thinks the adjoining land owners should be invited to be actively involved. Ms. Lee asked if he thinks this project meets enough of the application criteria, Mr. Beard felt that it does and encouraged the Commission to keep up their communication with him. The deadline for this application is August 1, 2010. Mr. Beard explained that they could also apply for consultation only. Mr. Beard asked how quickly they expect to get a construction grant for the installation of trails. Mr. McKee will send the information from the planner, Nan Stolzenburg to Mr. Beard for his review.

Moved by Fawn Tantillo to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2010 as amended.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Cara Lee

Vote- unanimous in favor

Jim Delaune asked Meredith Taylor if she was interested in being on the Commission. He stated that she was moving out of the area.

**Update on Sunset Ridge Property:** Mr. McKee stated that he has received the boundary survey. The Board took some time to look at the survey map. Mr. McKee noted that the survey indicates some gores (area that is not owned by anyone). The Supervisor has put the estoppels notice in the newspaper. M & T Bank remains the best bet for the loan. Mr. McKee feels they should be ready to close after the end of this month.

The Commission decided they will apply by August 1, 2010 for the National Parks Service program. Ms. Lee suggested that Mr. McKee and Michael Zierler will draw up the application, and offered to help on securing letters of support from partners.

- Seth McKee will talk to Joe Moriello about the gores and how they should proceed on this issue.
- Seth McKee will also talk to Joe Moriello about the easements on the property.
- Cara Lee and Seth McKee will follow-up with Toni Hokanson about SEQRA review.
- Seth McKee will talk to Michael Zierler about the Millbrook preserve project and tonight's discussion with Karl Beard.

**Update on Kira Kinney property:** Marty Irwin explained how he created the ranking sheet for this property. Explained that this was new for him so he wanted the Commission members to comment on what he had prepared. Mr. Irwin explained that Ms. Kinney has indicated two areas on her property that she would want excluded from the conservation easement. They discussed asking Ms. Kinney to agree to no further subdivision of those excluded areas.

Mr. McKee would like more time to look at what Mr. Irwin has prepared.

- The Secretary, Michelle Hamill will invite the Assessor, Lorry King, to attend the July 14, 2010 meeting to discuss how she assesses properties with a conservation easement.

Moved by Brad Barclay to direct Marty Irwin to talk with Kira Kinney

2<sup>nd</sup> by Fawn Tantillo

Vote- unanimous in favor

**New Business-** Mr. McKee stated that they have just received an application from David Jones. Ms. Bowdery stated that she will assess the property and start the ranking process.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm by Fawn Tantillo.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Michelle Hamill.