

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of June 10, 2015, at the Community Center

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

Town Officials: None

Public present: Mike and Julie Lillis

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

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:07 PM by Chairman Marty Irwin

2. Public Comments: No public comments were made.

3. Review & Approve Minutes: Some corrections and additions were made to the May 13, 2015 minutes. Brad Barclay moved to accept the May 13 minutes as corrected. John Gotto seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Mill Brook Preserve:

1. CFA Grant Application: Chairman Marty Irwin reported that the Village of New Paltz is having the Bienstock parcel appraised as part of the purchase procedure. The closing has not yet happened.

Marty is working on the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA)-- that the Village will manage the Mill Brook Preserve (MBP), even the Town-owned parcel and potential parcels within the Town; the Town has to approve improvements to MBP; the Village can apply for Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Grant for an entity part-owned by the Town.

He passed on that according to David Gilmore, the Village's Planner, the grant might require that the land owned by the Town and Village be dedicated as parkland, and that there might be a three-year lookback time in volunteer hours to count against matching funds.

Marty said that Mohonk Preserve might give MBP a small grant, and its director explained how they leveraged their grant money.

For the grant application, municipal letters of support are needed, and SEQR will have to be done.

Seth McKee said that the Village could do SEQR based on the already adopted Plan.

Marty continued, saying that retired SUNY Geology professor Jo Mano can find someone who can prepare a map from our data.

Brad Barclay added that resiliency of design is something looked for in CFA grants. Mike Lillis recommends the newest Trex for decking.

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The economic benefits of the MBP to the community: Use by the schools for educational purposes; enhance quality of life for residents, there being no parks at this end of town; enhanced property values in the area; possible increase of tourism. The NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program has already visited MBP to use it in its project to provide biodiversity training to planning board members.

Marty and Seth will be meeting Friday morning with someone on the Community Foundation regarding a grant to use for matching grants. Village Planner David Gilmore will be looking into ADA accessibility requirements and possibilities.

How will people working on the CFA grant communicate amongst ourselves? Kevin Borden will set up a GOOGLE Group called MBP-CFA.

There will be a field trip this Saturday, June 13, 9AM - 1PM to walk the existing paths there and see where bridges and bog-bridges need to go.

2. Friends of the Mill Brook Preserve: It was asked, should the Friends group be a non-profit organization? There is much organizational energy expended in maintaining a 501(c)3 corporation. Could it be under an existing umbrella non-profit such as the Community Foundation? Things to find out.

Julie Lillis said that there needs to be a design for trail markers and a MBP logo. There could be a logo contest. The logo could be used on an MBP T-shirt.

5. Other Business: Kevin Borden created a draft plan for a social media footprint for MBP (attached), tools to augment the face-to-face contact and community relationship-building to support MBP, such as a stand-alone website, Facebook Public and Group pages, and list-serve. CWOSPC board member Dennis Moore has offered to set up a website-- he will need to get the content needed for it. The fact that we are developing a website can help our CFA grant application. Kevin suggested we look at other Friends Group sites, such as Friends of the Great Swamp, and the Basha Kill Area Association for examples. Richard Fiesel asked who should host the site-- it belongs to the Friends group-- CWOSPC will go on to other things in the future.

6. New Business: None

7. Adjournment: Brad Barclay moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kevin Borden seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Need digital file of the Draft Social Media Plan for Mill Brook Preserve to attach. Kevin, could you email it to me?