

# **Town of New Paltz Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board**

Minutes of the meeting of May 25, 2021

Present: Pete Ferrante, John Gotto, Ingrid Haeckel, Cara Lee, John Orfitelli

Christie DeBoer, Wallkill Valley Land Trust  
Tara Hoey, Town of Gardiner Open Space Commission

Kathy Preston, Secretary

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.
2. John G. moved, Ingrid 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the April minutes as written. All in favor.
3. RETT Update: As of April 30, there is \$20,028 in the Fund. John O. and Supervisor Bettez have reviewed all of the transactions for accuracy.
4. Purchase of Wetland Properties from Ulster County: Four parcels in the Plutarch area are currently available at auction and the Town has the opportunity to purchase them. These properties are located east of the Thruway and Plutarch Rd, north of 299 and are part of a significant wetland habitat area identified in the NYS DEC Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Framework as part of the Esopus/Lloyd Wetlands and Ridges Significant Habitat. Almost all the acreage is mapped as freshwater wetlands The Fund can be used to facilitate the necessary title searches and Phase 1 environmental assessments. A survey is not explicitly necessary. Cara described the natural resources of the area and referenced the 2006 open Space Plan, which identifies the Plutarch wetlands as important for water quality and supporting wildlife. Ingrid moved, John G. 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass the following resolution: "Resolved that consistent with New Paltz's Community Preservation Law and Plan, the Community Preservation Advisory Board recommends that the Town Board authorize purchase of four parcels (87.5-3-2.212; 87.5-2-16; 87.5-2-17; and 87.5-2-18), pending a satisfactory title search and environmental assessment, to protect valuable wetland habitat and water quality, and regards this is the highest and best use for these properties." All in favor.

There was a discussion regarding management of the properties after purchase. Due to the nature of the properties, the management strategy should largely be to leave them as is, but committing that strategy to paper will be important.

5. Christie DeBoer, Director of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, addressed the Board regarding the WVLT's history and mission, conservation easement procedures and tax implications. Cara has invited Bob Anderberg from the Open Space Institute to meet with the Board at the June meeting.
6. Millbrook Preserve: Cara and Jim DeLaune reached out to Floyd Kniffen regarding his property bordering the Mill Brook Preserve, but have not heard anything. Cara will ask Mike Domitrovits to reach out.
7. Tara Hoey of the Town of Gardiner Open Space Commission reached out to the Board to share information regarding two upcoming presentations in June. Info and meeting links can be found <https://www.townofgardiner.org/open-space-commission> or by emailing [GardinerOpenSpace@gmail.com](mailto:GardinerOpenSpace@gmail.com)
8. It was agreed that the Board would like to meet in person at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Town Community Center, 3 Veteran's Drive.

Pete moved, Ingrid 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.