

**Town of New Paltz**  
**Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)**  
**Approved Minutes, Meeting of December 8, 2020, via Zoom**

Members present: John Gotto, Michael Knutson, Marty Irwin, Cara Lee, Rich Fiesel, Tom Weiner

Minutes taken by John Gotto

The meeting (held by Zoom conference) was called to order by Chairman John Gotto at 6:05 PM.

No members of the public were present, and no public comments had been submitted.

The Draft Minutes of the November 2020 meeting were discussed. Michael noted that the draft submitted by Lynn Bowdery had a few minor questions relating to the wording of a few sentences, and John noted that he had responded to Lynn with his suggestions. Michael moved to approve the minutes with modified wording, which was seconded by John. All members voted in favor.

The draft agenda was rearranged to begin with the topic of CWOSP membership. It was announced that longtime member and former Chairman Marty Irwin would resign from CWOSP due to his appointment to the Board of Wallkill Valley Land Trust. We thanked Marty for his many significant accomplishments over the years with CWOSP.

Cara was asked to provide an update on the implementation of the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) to fund the Community Preservation Plan. Cara reported on her substantial work in communications with Ulster County officials and the local real estate professional community to facilitate the start of collection of the tax for transactions starting in February 2021. The volunteer group to be appointed by the Town for administration of the Community Preservation Plan is referred to in the law as an "Advisory Board." Cara noted that the Town was still accepting applications for membership on this Board. Cara noted that the Town is in the process amending the law regarding CWOSP to specify that the funds collected as the RETT will be collected by the County and not by CWOSP.

A general discussion followed on the topic of the anticipated relationship and roles of CWOSP and the new CPP Advisory Board. The missions of the two are naturally overlapping though they have different funding tools at their disposal. There appears to be no urgency to make any changes regarding CWOSP and it is considered advisable for the Town to retain the bonding authority under the CWOSP law. It was suggested and agreed that efforts should be made to foster active collaboration between the groups to identify and evaluate opportunities for protection of properties. John suggested that CWOSP members could begin to familiarize themselves with properties that showed high priority rankings under the CPP, with the objective of coordinating with the CWOSP priority scoring mechanism.

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John noted that due to conflicts in his schedule, it would be necessary to change the time of the monthly CWOSP meetings. It was suggested that possibly the third Wednesday of each month might be acceptable. John indicated he would follow up with members by email to confirm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.