

**Town of New Paltz  
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)  
Approved Minutes, Meeting of January 28, 2021, via Zoom**

**Members present:** Lynn Bowdery, Rich Fiesel, John Gotto, Mike Knutson, Cara Lee, Tom Weiner

**Town Officials:** None

**Public present:** None

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

**1. Meeting called to order at:** 7:04 PM by Chairman John Gotto

**2. Public comments:** None

**3. Review and approve minutes of December 8, 2020 meeting:** No one suggested any changes to the draft minutes. John Gotto moved that the minutes be approved as written. Mike Knutson seconded the motion. Lynn Bowdery abstained, having missed that meeting. All five others present voted to approve the minutes.

**4. Membership issues:** John asked if we knew any potential candidates. Rich Fiesel said he has been trying to find someone in the farming community without success so far. John urged him to keep his feelers out. Mike asked about the financial disclosure form. We do not have to be sworn in every year. The term expirations on the contact list are not all accurate. Lynn will check what the Town Clerk has for our expirations, update the contact list, and recirculate it.

John reported about the property on Eugene Brown Drive, that the property might be available for protection. Cara Lee had more information. The new owner, Keith Libolt, talked to Neil Bettez; he is eager to make a proposal to the CPF. Cara said that the parcel does not rank high in the new CPP schema but Libolt is very optimistic. Neil thinks it would make a school study area and connector with Jansen Road, that there are possibilities. The CPF Advisory Board will have to come up with an intake procedure for applications. CPP requires evaluation of any parcel to see whether something is already protected by existing laws. It is part of a larger forest patch. Libolt is enthusiastic about conservation.

**5. Proposal for analysis of CPP priority parcels:** There are overlapping missions between CWOSP and CPF so we should try to become familiar with the CPP high priority properties. Mike has started going through the first 20 CPP properties, with the thought of how can CWOSP be useful for CPF Advisory Board. He thought be making a spreadsheet, with info for each property including CPP ranking, property ID, what protections are already available—wants to be able to support the Plan. Cara said that as we look through the data, it might reveal priorities, enable targeting. The information is not all in one place yet. Some in Ulster County Parcel Viewer, others in CPP rankings. Anything that we create would be publicly accessible, but a working document, too. John envisions taking the CPP chart and adding columns with other categories. Mike will make a Google Document of a prototype for us to look at and see what we think. John asked is the CPP ranking is searchable if you want to find a particular parcel. Presumably the CPF board will make this known.

**7. New Business:** Cara gave an update of the CPF work; got the tax set up for February 1 – it goes to the county and then to the town. They had to notify the real estate practitioners in town, worked with Christine Schale, who helped Red Hook. Information is out on the county and town websites, with FAQs. Many people have been notified. The information on the website has been migrated to the CPF Advisory Board page. They have had requests from other towns, including the Gardiner Open Space Committee, Town Board and Supervisor; and Chatham, NY. Mohonk Preserve asked us to present a panel on the

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CPF with them at the New York Land Trust Alliance Rally. The Advisory Board is in the process of being appointed. John is also on the CPF Advisory Board. John asked if anyone buying a property now in New Paltz could be blindsided by the RETT. Cara felt that the notifications were adequate. Mike said that it would be up to the county to enforce the tax.

Rich brought up an environmental concern that we should know about. All the new electric vehicles have lithium ion batteries, and he is concerned about what to do with the Li Ion batteries when they are no longer usable. These batteries can be very expensive to recycle and they can pose a fire hazard. A brief discussion followed.

**7. Adjournment:** Lynn moved that the meeting be adjourned. John seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned about 7:45 PM.