

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of Wednesday, August 24, 2022 via Zoom

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

Town Officials: None

Public present: None

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

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:05 PM by Chairman John Gotto

2. Public comments: None

3. Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2022: There were no changes suggested to the draft minutes. John Gotto moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Knutson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. President John Gotto opened the meeting by saying that there is no new business for the CWOSP Commission. He reported that the Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board has been active. The fund has \$700,000 in Real Estate Transfer Tax proceeds. They are sending out cold letters to reach out to owners of high ranking properties and have not had a great response. Things are evolving. John thinks a newspaper article would be helpful. Also information should go out to real estate agents so that they would understand the fund and the ways it could make potential purchases more affordable to purchasers of large properties. For example, the sale of a conservation easement could affect the cost of the property. Mike Knutson cautioned that an appraiser may not always find that a conservation easement has a significant impact on the marketability of a property and therefore may not necessarily make a property more affordable to a future purchaser. John reported that Town Supervisor Neil Bettez said people have been asking him about the fund, and he tells them that the town is being systematic.

Mike had a question about what the Town is doing about the property in front of the Community Center. John said that various things are being thought about, such as a pocket park. A discussion followed about the property that the Town owns on Springtown Road with frontage on the Wallkill River. Tom Weiner brought up the topic of a letter bringing the fund's possibilities to people's attention. John said the idea was actually for a news article but it needs coordination. He will ask Neil about it.

There was no other discussion.

Mike Knutson moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Weiner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

The next meeting will be on October 26, the fourth Wednesday in October.