

Town of New Paltz
Clean Water and Open Space Protection Commission (CWOSP)
Approved Minutes, Meeting of December 11, 2019, at the Community Center

Members Present: Lynn Bowdery, Richard Fiesel, John Gotto, Michael Knutson, and Tom Weiner

Town Officials: Marty Irwin, Town Board Liaison

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. Review and approve minutes of November meeting: The draft minutes of the November 13th meeting were presented. Corrections were made where CPA was written where CPP was meant, a misspelled name was corrected, and a bit of information was added. Lynn Bowdery moved to approve the minutes as amended. Richard Fiesel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Community Preservation Fund – Chairman John Gotto reported that the Community Preservation Act (CPA) has been signed into law. The next step is to create a Community Preservation Plan (CPP) as soon as possible. There will be a meeting on this topic tomorrow (Thursday, December 12) at the Community Center at 7PM, by the ENCB and the Historic Preservation Commission. CWOSP is invited to participate and help in this big effort. John will be going and so will Michael Knutson and Lynn Bowdery. Tom Weiner said he is interested in helping but cannot make the meeting tomorrow.

Marty Irwin asked when the things to be put on the 2020 ballot have to be ready by. John said by August. A grant to help pay for the creation of a CCP has been applied for and the results will be announced before the end of the year.

5. County-owned parcels: John had just received a packet of information about the county-owned parcels east of North Ohioville Road, something that Jim DeLaune, our County Legislator and former CWOSP Commission member helped get sent. The county would like to recover the back taxes on the four parcels, an amount of about \$33,000. A discussion followed of what the town would possibly do if it were to acquire such lands, which are largely covered by wetlands and have very limited road access. CWOSP Comm. Does not see a compelling reason for the Town to acquire these parcels. John will talk to Supervisor Neil Bettez about them, since he had asked CWOSP to take a look at them.

6. Grant opportunities – forwarded from Supervisor: Mike Knutson is familiar with this state agricultural grant program and explained that its purpose is focused quite narrowly on helping non-dairy farms that are stressed by a number of factors such as trade disputes, increasing debt, changing consumer preferences, and climate change to transition to another type of farming that would be profitable and sustainable in the future, by purchasing development rights with money the farmers can use to help their transition to sustainability. Mike explained that there is a certain amount set aside by regions, and applications are accepted and grants made until the funds are gone. The grant requires either a 25% match by the Town or a 12.5% donation from the seller. A discussion followed about what farms here might conceivably qualify. John said that we should keep this grant source in mind if a suitable farm comes up that would qualify.

7. Updates on possible target properties: John said he thinks the time is right for prioritizing properties and contacting owners to feel them out. He will compose a basic letter and circulate it for comments and suggestions. Lynn will look to see how early CWOSP announcements of availability were made.

8. Adjournment: Mike Knutson moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Gotto seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Our next meeting will be January 8, 2019. This is the **second** Wednesday.