

Minutes for Open Space Meeting June 11, 2018

Attending: Linda, Laura W, Laura R, Jean, Kellie and Becca

Absent: Kay

Next meeting: July 23 6:30-8

Following meeting: Aug 13 6:30-8

Discussed:

Easements

- Municipalities are not bound by the same standards as Land Trust Alliance
 - do not necessarily have to monitor or have a plan
 - Is this something we want to work on?
 - Linda offered to be part of a small team to make a list of the town-held easements

Aquifer Recharge

- Environmental Commission has done a lot of research on aquifer recharge – trying to map aquifers, etc

Development Plan

- Gardiner has re-zoned
- Look at the zoning law – designed for development
 - Ireland Corners
 - Corner of 44/55 and Albany post
 - One other
 - Hamlet – sewage treatment plan

Conservation Finance

- Easement program from Ag & Mkts?
 - David Behm
 - Several yearly application
- Other place easements live -Authorized article 49 under Environmental Conservation Law

Places to conserve

- Tallus slope - Unique habitat and rare species
- Walkill river valley
- Recreation and access; developing places that people can use – know where can and can't walk
 - * Drive the town and look at the different Hubs and what the Open Space Plan is talking about

Things that stood out

- PDRs and the concrete goals of the plan
- The differences between easements versus restrictive covenant
 - Restrictive covenant runs with the property but no one to oversee or enforces it.
 - Easement = tax benefit
- Tools available? How effective are they? Cost and benefit of the tools?
- *PDR program*
 - Develop criteria for projects we accept
 - Set up a priority system
 - Application process
 - Funding
- How do we prioritize
 - One idea:
 - Find out who is interested on an easement
 - Check out the ones of people who are interested and then work with them
 - Try to find funding, etc
 - Use Conservation Hubs to prioritize
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 - Another idea:
 - Could try to prioritize based on data and information
- Can ask for \$\$ from town if we get it in the budget
- What tools do we want to use?
 - Convince people to donate
 - PDRs
 - Education
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- How are already preserved properties maintained?
- Talk to the town about what they will preserve
- Who to partner with to help us with easements?
 - Who are the options?
 - OSI
 - Wallkill Valley Land Trust
 - Town
 - Other?
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- Look at town owned parcels and get the town to acknowledge a role in preserving some of them
 - E.g. Recommend certain town owned parcels for official protection
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Planning, Next Steps for next meeting(s)

- Discuss zoning laws at next meeting. (Laura W to lead the discussion)
- Learn more about statewide easement and funding programs for open space
 - Becca – to google
 - Jean – talk to Fran Dunwell , NYS DEC Hudson River Estuaries Program
- Follow up with Seth McKee on Open Space Commission in New Paltz and Scenic Hudson conservation priorities –(Jean)
- Linda to talk to Dennis Doyle, Director Ulster County Planning Office
- List of town owned parcels current ownership, Section Block Lot No, size, (Jean to get)
- Reach out to Supervisor Majestic to develop Inventory of Town owned properties with conservation easements and privately owned properties within town with conservation and other easements already in place. (Linda, Kellie)
- Create inventory of Past Action of Open Space Commission
 - Go through files on Open Space Commission – Jean, Kellie & Laura W
- Get an updated list of Wallkill Valley land trust easements – Laura W
- Contact Wallkill Valley Land Trust – Laura R
- Next Meeting Snacks: Jean
- Next Meeting Closing quote/poem...Laura R.

Two questions to ask other groups when reaching out to them:

- 1) what are their conservation priorities?
- 2) What tools are they using

Items for further information/follow up

- How did the plan change things – how did the zoning get updated?
- Learn more about the environmental commission and what they did on the aquifer
- Can we get access to the data that created the Open Space Commission?
- There are boxes of information sitting that we can review from past open space group.

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