

MINUTES, Gardiner Open Space Commission, March 11, 2019

Present: Jean McGrane, Linda Geary, Kay Hoiby, Kelly George, Laura Wong Pan, Laura Rose.

Absent: Rebecca Benner

Quotes (Kellie)

"Nature is man's teacher. She unfolds her treasures to his search, unseals his eye, illumines his mind, and purifies his heart; an influence breathes from all the sights and sounds of her existence."

- Alfred Billings Street

"In the trees, in the breeze, seek nature's peace and bliss." -Author unknown.

"It's the air we breathe that makes earth livable, and it's under threat from humanity." -Mario Voicu

Minutes

-February meeting minutes approved: Linda moved, Kay seconded, all approved.

Outreach Reports:

1. Jean and Linda met with Paul Colucci of the Planning Board.

They described the meeting as productive. Paul welcomes our recommendations re conservation easements. We will continue our conversations with Paul and the Planning Board.

Jean, Linda and Paul discussed Shaft Road. The easement hasn't been recorded yet and the required markers aren't in. The group discussed the need for getting a comprehensive baseline inventory assessment done for this property.

Laura Rose to write a memo to the town encouraging the baseline and explaining its value, Laura Wong Pan to proof the memo.

2. Jean met with Christie DeBoer of Walkkill Valley Land Trust (WVLT).

WVLT confirmed that they are open to exploring working in a consulting capacity with the Town of Gardiner, specifically on the Shaft Road conservation easement, and potentially, others in the future. They could also help with the baseline assessment documentation that will help enforce the easement in perpetuity.

Laura Wong Pan noted that there are others who can produce a baseline, ex. Kelly Dobins, and suggested we offer the second consultant as an option.

3. Laura Wong Pan review of the Heartwood Agricultural Easement.

Laura Wong Pan has composed a line by line analysis of the Heartwood Agricultural Conservation Easement and will present it to the Planning Board and Town Supervisor.

Jean asked that Laura WP begin an analysis of the other Heartwood easement as well, and asked if she could have it completed by the Planning Board meeting date of Tuesday March 19th. Laura will work on this. Group to review and make comments.

Laura discussed her analysis of the Agricultural Easement with the group.

4. Next Steps for Outreach:

Laura Rose to contact Gardiner's Environmental Conservation Commission to learn about their current work and to see if there are ways our commissions might work together to support each other.

Discussion of outreach efforts in progress to other towns and organizations was moved to our next meeting, as tonight's agenda was full.

Jean to reach out to Behan Associates re accessing maps digitally and possibly updating them.

April 11 Workshop: Protecting Farms for the Future, The Law and Practice of Agricultural Conservation Easements. Half-day workshop, at Cornell Cooperative Extension, in Kingston.

Review of Zoning and Directives

Linda Geary has pulled up the zoning code, regulations and other information about who has which responsibility in the town, in terms of open space preservation. She found some conflicting and duplicated laws and responsibilities. She is working on a chart, to map which group has which responsibility. She will present this at the next meeting. She thinks there may be a need for update, to make all consistent and aid in process, moving forward.

Review of 2nd draft "Recommendations to Town/ The Elements of Effective Open Space Preservation and Management" memo.

Laura Rose wrote this draft, focusing on a few parts of the first memo on this topic drafted by Jean. We decided there needs to be a third draft and a third set of eyes on this, so Becca will make the next attempt.

There are pressing matters for our group and town right now that are specific, and so we are in fact making recommendations but in a different way. Laura WP will be presenting two memos on Heartwood. Laura R will write one specifically about the baseline documentation for Shaft. In this way, we are doing some of what was proposed in the decision to draft this memo in the first place.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2019, Town Hall, 5 PM. Snacks: Kay Quotes: Kellie