

MINUTES, Gardiner Open Space Commission, August 12, 2019, 5-6:30PM.

Present: Jean McGrane, Rebecca Benner, Laura Wong Pan, Linda Geary, Kay Hoiby, Laura Rose.

Excused: Kellie George.

Quotes: (Laura WP)

"You wanna fly, you got to give up the shit that weighs you down." - Toni Morrison.

"At some point in life, the world's beauty becomes enough. You don't need to photograph, paint, or even remember it. It is enough." - Toni Morrison.

Opening Business.

Motion made by Kay to approve July minutes. Rebecca seconded, all approved July minutes. Add Laura WP to the agenda to review and discuss conservation easement template.

Outreach:

Jean and Becca met with Roberta Clements of the Environmental Conservation Commission. The current work of both groups was discussed. We acknowledged John Sansalone's passing.

That our Town doesn't have a Natural Resources Consultant was discussed. We can advocate for getting a Natural Resources analysis and paid professional consultant in place, prior to the Town allowing more large projects, moving forward.

Creating a connection with SUNY New Paltz to get the assistance of a professor capable of manipulating GIS data to help us with mapping was discussed. Becca has a person in mind.

Whether this could be a budget item for our next budget was also discussed.

Continued work towards presentations to the Town.

Laura WP and Linda have worked together to draft a Conservation Easement Template for the Town to offer developers, moving forward. Any developer or Planning Board changes to the accepted template will, ideally, be redlined, so it isn't complicated to see what they do or don't want to agree to.

We will all review the draft and make comments to each other via email. We will also approve the completed draft as a group via email. This way it should be ready for presentation by the Sept. 3rd Town Board meeting.

Question discussed: Should we expect control for invasive species within new conservation easements? It might be hard to enforce.

Laura R put together a Powerpoint presentation of the "Preserved in Gardiner" database.

She shared it with the group.

Questions and comments were shared, to help flesh it out for presentation.

It was agreed that Jean would present the basic structure of what an updated Conservation Easement Program can look like at the September 3rd meeting, and Laura WP and Linda can present the templates at that meeting too.

Laura R will present the database Powerpoint at the next Town Board meeting that we are invited to attend.

Other Business.

Heartwood was discussed.

Reference to our group's role in this project was made in the New Paltz Times.

The Town has our comments on the easements the developer proposed, and so we aren't expecting to have further input into the conservation easements.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2019 5-6:30 PM

Quotes: Rebecca Benner **Snacks:** Linda Geary