

MINUTES, Gardiner Open Space Commission, 7:30-9 PM, April 24, 2019.

Present: Jean McGrane, Rebecca Benner, Linda Geary, Kay Hoiby, Kellie George, Laura Rose.

Excused: Laura Wong Pan.

Opening Business.

- Paul Colucci couldn't attend tonight's meeting, as planned.
- Receipts from participants in the *Law Protecting Farms for the Future* workshop @ Cornell Co-op Extension on April 11 collected; to be submitted for reimbursement.

Follow up from last meeting:

Review of Gardiner Local Laws

Our group is working on an action plan for improving the Town government's management of conservation easements. Jean wants to use Linda's findings to help us focus this effort.

- One step is to facilitate communication among the various parts of the government already responsible for creating and managing conservation easements.
- We have already begun work on opening those lines of communication.
- A follow up meeting is planned with Roberta Clements later this week, Chair of Gardiner's Environmental Conservation Commission.
- A follow up meeting with Paul Colucci will be rescheduled, and we will also reach out to Marybeth Majestic for a meeting.
- Kay will reach out to Parks and Recreation.
- Laura R to reach out to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Linda said the law needs updating, so there aren't cross currents of purpose at work, and each part of the government's role in this is better defined.

Shaft Road

Kay is continuing to follow up to learn more about how the Shaft Road conservation easement is being processed. There is a parkland fee expected for each lot created. Is that money being earmarked for recreation and/ or conservation efforts? Some of this money could be used for baseline monitoring.

NYS DEC

Since our last meeting, Jean shared information from NYS:

- 1) on Conservation Advisory Boards,
- 2) on establishing conservation values,
- 3) available grants and
- 4) a Hudson Valley Natural Resource mapping tool.

Nate Nardi-Cyrus of the DEC said this mapping tool is one of several available to help establish conservation values. There is a training in its use scheduled on May 6th, 5:30 - 7:30 PM at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Kingston.

Jean wants to update the data in the Open Space Plan. New Paltz is currently interested in updating theirs too. There could be an opportunity for us to work in tandem with them on this project.

The DEC has funding available for a Natural Resources Inventory. New Paltz applied for this unsuccessfully, but proposals including more than one town might create a better application.

- Becca will follow up with Cara Lee to see if they're interested in collaborating on this.
- Becca to call Behan to learn about their data sources.

Mohonk Preserve

We are scheduling to meet with Julia Solomon, Director of Land Protection at the Preserve. Calendars were compared. The meeting is set for Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 12:30 PM.

Jacqueline Estates

Laura R presented a town approved, full-sized map of this subdivision, and shared info from several conversations with the developer. The subdivision will be sold either as a whole or in phases. So far, this 201-acre farm (along with having the whole subdivision on the market,) has three smaller lots (out of 29 total) for sale. None of the area earmarked for conservation is part of the three lots. We talked about the conservation easement that has been deeded to the town, and again are left with questions around baseline reporting, annual monitoring and how violations will be handled. We do know that this one is intended for agricultural use.

There's also a 15-acre community park planned as part of this development.

Conservation Easement Inventory Update

The deeds for town-owned properties confirm that many pieces were given with the intent of preservation, and some are also meant for recreation.

Next Meeting: June 3, 5-6:30 PM **Quotes:** Laura R **Snacks:** Jean