

GOSC Meeting Minutes May 11,2020 at 4PM, Via Zoom

Present: Jean, Rebecca, Kay, Laura WP, Kellie. Absent: Linda and Laura R

Quote was from Laura WP:

Solving the climate crisis is within our grasp, but we need people like you to stand up and act” (Al Gore)

Motion to approve April 2, 2020 minutes – Kay, second Laura W-P, all approve

Updates to agenda

- Renew Laura W-P term
- Adding Jean’s talk to Andy

Approval of Conservation Easement and Template to be sent to the Town Board –

likely to be on the agenda for June

- Motion to approve – Becca
- Second Kay
- All in favor

Hess Stewardship Agreement

- OSI wants to transfer interests to Wallkill Valley Land Trust
- Laura WP and Jean met on Zoom with Mary Beth and Warren to discuss the OSI/WVLT draft
- Sent to WLVT and OSI for review – they will negotiate with us
- Two paragraph 6s in the Hess Agreement - red lining didn’t change - will correct on the final version

Baseline Inventory

Sent the names of two additional consultants to the town board who can do Baseline inventory

- Kelly Dobson
- Hudsonia

Heartwood was approved pending the completion of a baseline inventory. The Shaft Road Conservation Easement was approved by the Town Board (TB) prior to obtaining the research and information presented by the Gardiner Open Space Commission regarding the necessity of completing a Baseline Inventory prior to the TB's acceptance of the Conservation Easement. The Town Supervisor has been in communication with the property owner to complete the Baseline Inventory.

Review and revise Town law on open space preservation

- Hold until after the NRI
- Do this together with the ECC once the NRI is done

Funding conservation and stewardship costs

- Need to think about how to move forward with this – perhaps address this sometime in the summer
- Kay looked at Ag & Markets website again – have some ongoing funding opportunities
- Idea – make a list of potential grants and be aware of the deadlines

Google Drive

- Created categories based on what we have done
- Kay created categories based on what we have to date but can add more
- To do – upload from prior Gardiner Open Space Commission
- If we want to add things can just add it in

Easement monitoring

- Andy has done 4 of the town owned properties
- Suggested Andy join for June meeting – can provide example of information collecting
- Having some issues without getting any notifications back and getting the process moving

NRI updates

- Look at maps that Jean sent around coming from the NRI project
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q2z0xJaXF3BGXOF1wccPRDB5kidTzaKS>
- Need to get Planning Board to use the maps
- These will be presented in June to the public and Planning Board with a presentation to the town board in July - Virtual format depends on group. Planning Board will be via Zoom and Public presentation via webinar.
 - We can listen in on the presentation DEC will make
- Becca to articulate what kinds of purposes we would have for the maps; what are ways we can use these going forward.
 - Becca to reach out to Nate and Ingrid

Prioritization of Conservation Efforts

- Kay sent out one final one that is easier to use – more like New Paltz
- NP has scenic and cultural resources; Gardiner doesn't include project viability
- New Paltz one gives a lot of discretion to what you rank within them but are emphasizing project viability and farm viability a lot
 - 21% project viability
 - 21% for farm viability
- Combine Gardiner and New Paltz
- Might need to make some recommendations on how to score on the 1-10 scale on the New Paltz criteria – Gardiner gives slightly more guidance
- NRI maps – like biodiversity can be really helpful in ranking priorities
- How to move forward with it?
 - Is there information that is not included?
- Like the additional scoring guidance Gardiner gives less discretion in terms of scoring
- Next Steps – Subcommittee to create a new version
 - Laura WP, Becca, Kellie
 - Come up with proposed new version
 - Becca to make it word from pdf

New conservation efforts – moving forward

- New funding might come up through \$3billion bond act – approved by the legislature
- What to present to the public about the NRI presentation – could be a presentation on a set of maps
 - Help the public understand why it's important to them

- Have our message included in the presentation – could say part of Open Space Acquisition Program
 - Use the maps to show examples of how it would inform a particular decision
- Jean will send Roberta's email of her suggestions for the NRI presentation to the team
- We could do some education and outreach during this shelter at home time and start to introduce who we are
 - Could show some NRI maps
- We could do some educational webinars about who we are and then roll out some of our program to solicit conservation interests and potential donations and properties
- Jean will develop a timeline for outreach meetings with goals and objectives for those meetings
 - Could use breakout rooms on Zoom to do small group meetings

Next meeting: Kellie Quote

Date and Time: June 8, 2020 at 4 PM (Virtual)