

**Minutes, Gardiner Open Space Commission Meeting,
Hybrid November 14, 2022, 6:00 -7:30 PM**

Attendance:

Present: Jean-Ann McGrane, Kay Hoiby, Tara Hoey, Linda Geary, Laura Rose, Laura Wong-Pan

Excused: Kellie George

Quote (Jean)

“We still do not know one thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us.”

- Albert Einstein

“You can cut all the flowers, but you can't keep spring from coming.”

- Pablo Neruda

Next quote: Kay Hoiby

Opening Business:

October meeting minutes approved. Motion Kay Hoiby, second Linda Geary, all approved.
No objections.

December 12 , 6 -7:30 PM next meeting, hybrid format, on Zoom and in person in Town Hall.
David Church will be attending this meeting; he has been meeting with all of the Town's groups.

Discussion of the future of the Gardiner Open Space Commission:

Two years ago Linda Geary reviewed Powers and Duties of GOSC.

She looked at the differences between the ECC'd duties and ours, and we have discussed the places we overlap, and which duties which group should be performing.

Ex. While we worked on creating an inventory of all of Gardiner's open spaces, maintaining this inventory moving forward should fall to the ECC.

It will be updated moving forward through whoever is keeping the NRI up-to-date. In the books, this is a job of the ECC only, but in practice, we have been working with the ECC on the NRI.

Updates to the Comprehensive Plan should help clarify who is to do what.

David Church's work moving forward should also help make the boundaries clear.

16-5 J Should be moved to the open space commission, Linda and Laura Rose agree. To accept a gift of land should be GOSC.

220 Assessing the conservation value of lands should stay with the ECC. They should continue to work with the Planning Board. It isn't our role to work with the Planning Board, unless someone reaches out to us.

For a long time, we have been saying that the town needs to find an Environmental Conservation firm to consult on projects with. We have recommended a specific firm. David Church is aware of this issue and should be able to help get this put into place.

GOSC Goals for 2022: Updates

Goal #1: Support efforts to create a Community Preservation Plan. Jean
Status update: CPF passed!! This mission is accomplished.

Goal #3: Educate, and encourage Voluntary Conservation
and #4: Support the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Kay

Discussion - **Fall Educational Series.**

Kay discussed October 24th's community education presentation.

We had good participation, 17 in person, 29 on zoom. It included farmers.

The Red Hook supervisor was a good speaker, as was Scenic Hudson's speaker. Together they gave a good impression of what a CPF can do, and explained how conservation easements work. The coordination with the goal of supporting the CPF was unexpected but worked well. The program was well received and we had good feedback from it.

What's next?

Kay discussed some ideas for future education efforts, including a speaker from Ag and Markets, and Dennis Doyle.

Timing for future workshops was discussed, but nothing was decided.

Concern was expressed around future planning, as the Open Space Commission may undergo change, now that there is CPF funding.

Will we remain intact as a group? Can we make plans when we are unclear about our future?

Which roles would we maintain, and which would move to a (CPF spending) Community Preservation Advisory Committee? Would we merge?

Laura Rose said: it will take a long time for there to be funds to spend, and there should be a role for us, separately, moving forward; for education, voluntary conservation, and supervising monitoring.

Plus it is the role of the Open Space Commission to spend funds to conserve properties; won't we oversee this once there's money? Maybe the CPF spending committee (Community Preservation Advisory Committee) should be a subcommittee of this commission.

Jean said: this group will be restructured; David Church is looking at how, and three members' terms are up in April.

Kay also discussed needing better mailing and emailing lists of farmers to reach out to them and increase participation in educational activities.

Mailing lists would also be helpful for town-wide educational and voluntary conservation efforts. Laura R to see if Neil Curri can help us use the technology in the NRI and CPP programming to generate mailing lists.

Tara wants to generate a list of properties with "prime soils" in Gardiner; this would correspond with the Ag and Markets grant requirements. Laura R to put her in touch with Neil Curri.

We could be making use of the CPF scoring we now have to help us decide who to reach out to.

Mapping update for the NRI and CPP: Laura Rose reports the project is making progress, and she should be able to share the new mapping with this group before spring. The new mapping makes it much easier to focus on where our outreach for voluntary conservation efforts should point, and will also be helpful for choosing projects on which to spend CPF funds, once they are accrued.

Goal #2: Ensure the Town monitors its conservation easements and preserved lands.

Laura Rose

WVLT is making progress in their monitoring. Kay and/or Tara have accompanied most of their monitoring visits. How to address violations needs to be discussed with the Town Supervisor, and a meeting will be scheduled which will include Jean, Marybeth Majestic, Laura Rose and possibly Bruce Terwilliger, soon.

WVLT will get all monitoring done before December 31, 2022, so that our budget line for that item will be spent within this calendar year.

Goal #3: Educate and Encourage Voluntary Conservation

Jean, Laura Wong Pan

Voluntary Conservation: Laura Wong Pan has agreed to field calls that come into the group; more work needs to be done to pursue this goal.

Jean said we should start putting together more and better information on the tax implications, and tax advantages. Also additional fact sheets, and an updated application. No one was assigned to the task.

Other Items:

The 2023 budget is in.

Goals need to be developed for 2023 to correspond with the 2023 budget.

Goals to be discussed at the January meeting.

Jean said that Ingrid of the The Hudson River Estuary Program and the DEC, asked us for a paragraph describing how their support has helped our Town. We couldn't have put together the NRI, CPP or ultimately achieved a CPF without their assistance, so it should be a very nice paragraph! Jean and Laura Rose to write the paragraph.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 12th 6 PM.