

MINUTES, Gardiner Open Space Commission Meeting, via Zoom.

Monday February 8, 2021, 5:00 - 6:30 PM.

Present: Jean McGrane (Chair,) Laura Wong-Pan, Kellie George, Kay Hoiby, Laura Rose, Rebecca Benner, Linda Geary.

Minutes taken by: Laura Rose.

Opening Business.

Approval of January minutes: Motion made by Becca, Kay seconded, all approved.

No changes to agenda.

Next regular meeting planned for Monday March 8, 2021, 7 - 8 PM.

Expiration of Becca's Term:

Becca will not be renewing her term and we thank her for 3 years of service.

We discussed potential replacements, including moving Linda or Kellie from the alternate position.

Jean said she had discussed the procedure for this with Marybeth Majestic; anyone interested in the position must apply, including our seasoned alternates.

Kellie suggested two possible additions; Misha Fredricks and Sonali Mcdermid.

Since Misha is newly on the ECC, we agreed that joining GOSC would be adding too much to her plate at once.

Per Kellie, Sonali works in an environmental profession and has a background in science and conservation. We all agreed that these attributes would be useful in a new member.

Jean suggested we all think about people who could work, and reach out to them.

Moving ahead with our Conservation Easement and Land Acquisition Program for Gardiner:

The Town Board will consider our proposal.

They've asked for a presentation from us, in March.

We need to confirm how much time it should take.

Laura WP volunteered to lead the presentation; Laura R volunteered to discuss the scoring criteria.

Our goals include: offering education on this subject, soliciting applicants and applications and reviewing each application.

It will be up to the Town to then review any application we find especially promising, along with our recommendations, and they will make the final decision as to whether or not to accept a land donation, or a new conservation easement.

Discussion included:

- Will this be established as a new local law, or will they approve it via a resolution?
- Do we want or need a new public law to get this work off the ground?
- Will a public hearing be needed?

Becca pointed out that a public hearing is an opportunity to educate the public about what we're doing.

-Jean said we should plan do education work first, once we have approval.

We then questioned whether the educational outreach we've discussed is in the proposal.

Also discussed updating the outreach plans.

Talked about bringing in speakers, and organizing them by topics, such as Funding, or Ways Land is Protected.

Kay to work on an update of the educational plan for the group to look at.

- Linda brought up SEQR review and thought that the adoption of the Open Space Conservation Plan might qualify as a Type 2 action, which means there is are no significant impacts on the environment. Linda said the Town should consult with an attorney about SEQR compliance.

- Discussed an Open Space Index, which would help point to areas of the Town most critical to focus on for open space preservation.

- Questioned whether it would be our work or that of the ECC to get this done.

Changes to the ECC/ Outcome.

Four new members have been added, and there's a new Chair.

Rather than disband and reestablish the group under a different name, with modified responsibilities, it has been revitalized.

They've been asked to look at their own law to see what updates it might need.

Potential Future Uses of the NRI.

Jean wants to move ahead on getting digital, stackable mapping created, using the data in the NRI maps. We already have a budget line for getting this work completed.

Becca to help Jean develop a plan for how to get this done.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Next Meeting: March 8, 2021 at 7 PM. **Quotes:** Kellie.