

MINUTES, Gardiner Open Space Commission Meeting, via Zoom.

Monday April 12, 2021, 5-6:30PM.

Present: Jean McGrane (Chair,) Kellie George, Kay Hoiby, Linda Geary, Laura Wong-Pan, Laura Rose, Tara Hoey. **Guest:** Ilka Casey.

Minutes taken by: Laura Rose.

Quote: (Linda)

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything." - William Shakespeare

Opening Business.

Approval of March minutes: Motion made by Kay, Laura R seconded, all approved.

No changes to agenda.

Next regular meeting planned for Monday May 10, 2021 at 7 PM.

Laura WP to send out Zoom invite, Jean to provide us with quotes.

Guest from Gardiner Parks and Rec, Ilka Casey.

Ilka Casey, Co-Chair of the Gardiner Parks and Recreation Committee came to share her group's proposal to build trails on the Town's 87-acre landfill property, which extends to the Wallkill River. The proposal includes 13 different trails, and mapping for them, which we looked at together.

Ilka said it would be great to connect the Rail Trail to the former landfill via an easement through Craig Hostetler's land, which is on the market for sale.

Her group hasn't approached him about this idea; Ilka thought it might be something our group can assist with.

Laura R asked if a designated bike lane along Steve's Lane has been considered.

Ilka said there's a concern about the trucks.

Jean said we have no money to offer any landowner, but once the proposal is approved, the DEC might and it would be worth looking into their funding.

Tara Hoey, our brand-new member, volunteers for the Gardiner Parks and Rec. Trails subcommittee, and is a member of Climate Smart Gardiner. She talked about the upcoming Trees for Tribs event, sponsored by the DEC, in which 300 trees are going to be planted along the riverbank on the Town's property, in May.

She also said that Parks and Rec hopes to have the land declared a park. She said it will mean that it can't be used for anything else, in the future. Linda Geary said it will take an order of State Government to convert a park back to any other use. Tara said: that's the point of doing it. Jean noted there might be other potential needs the Town has for this land.

The idea of having Town land declared park land is one that GOSC hasn't considered to date. Jean suggested Parks and Rec may want to look at the conservation values on the property using the NRI maps.

Laura R asked if bathrooms are part of the trails proposal, as the public is being invited in. Ilka said they are not. Laura thinks there should be bathrooms.

Ilka discussed Lyle Goodnow's property which is right next to where the proposed parking lot is; they would also like an easement there, to promote an easy traffic flow to the trailheads. Ilka then left the meeting.

New Member, Tara Hoey.

We all introduced ourselves. Jean discussed an on-boarding process for Tara. Each of us will speak with her individually about specific topics, and Tara can read about projects we've been involved in and past minutes on the Town's website.

Moving forward with finalizing our parcel scoring criteria.

SEQR:

As a follow up to the Town Board meeting on March 9, Linda G reports that per her discussion with Alyson [Phillips](#) the Town can expect a "neg dec" or negative declaration in the SEQR review of the scoring criteria.

This concern has now been properly addressed.

Warren Wiegand's questions and comments:

Jean is crafting our response.

We went through Warren's memo and discussed our answers.

A soils section will be added, points for Ag increased, and we will run the scoring by Ingrid.

Jean asked if there are inconsistencies between the Ag and Non-Ag documents other than in the Ag section, and the scoring.

Laura Rose to review the two documents side by side to proof for inconsistencies.

Laura Rose and Jean to meet this week to further discuss the scoring criteria.

Planning our Educational Outreach:

Kay has continued to work on the scope and substance of education sessions.

Kay said the Gardiner Gazette deadline is in early May, but wasn't sure they'd be publishing. Tara said there are new people taking over for Carol O'Biso and the next issue will go out on schedule. She offered to share the new editor's contact info. *Tara to email.*

Laura R has written a draft for an article for the Gazette. It doesn't include dates.

Laura to send to Kay and Jean.

The group discussed dates. We chose June 2 and June 16th for our first two programs.

We discussed planning an in-person workshop and agreed to postpone this until the Fall.

Better definition of the roles of GOSC and the Environmental Conservation Commission.

Linda and Jean attended the Environmental Conservation Commission's Zoom meeting on March 24th to discuss the Town's proposed changes to the ECC and the overlapping responsibilities of the two groups.

Linda reviewed, section by section, the recommendations she made around which responsibilities make sense for each group.

We talked again about the need for the Planning Board to work well with the ECC.

We also talked about who should be involved in the analysis and creation of conservation easements as part of development projects. We think the Town needs to ensure that a professional group with expertise in biodiversity and conservation values analysis, such as Hudsonia, be retained (and paid for by the developer) to assist in the environmental analysis and placement of any easement on a subdivision site.

This role is different from that of an engineering firm.

Town Update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Jean announced that Warren Wiegand will be our group's Town Board liaison for any input we give around the Town's update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday May 10 at 7 PM. **Quotes:** Jean

