

**Minutes, Gardiner Open Space Commission Meeting,
on Zoom. October 17, 6:00 -7:30 PM**

Attendance: In person: n/a Town Hall had another meeting scheduled for this time so we met on Zoom only.

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

Quote for this meeting brought by Kay Hoiby

“No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.” Booker T. Washington

Opening Business:

September meeting minutes approved. Motion Kay, second Laura Rose, all approved. No objections.

November 14, 2022, 6 -7:30 PM next meeting, hybrid format, on Zoom and in person in Town Hall.

Jean to offer a quote for the next meeting.

GOSC Goals for 2022: Action Steps Updates

Goal #4: Support the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Kay
Discussion - **fall educational series** to coordinate with the CPF campaign.
Kay discussed Community Education and Outreach of Agricultural Lands outline.

Outreach session is scheduled for October 24 with Scenic Hudson. Kay reserved Town Hall and the zoom link. Starts at 7. Laura Rose will bring maps for displaying at the event. Tara will bring banner. Press release went out 10/17 to local papers. Kay will reach out directly to farmers. Kay will ask John Benner for help getting the flier to farmers.

Town hall sign should be updated to show our program info, Tara to give Kay info to reach out to Sugar from the Gardiner Day Committee.

Goal #1: Support efforts to create a Community Preservation Plan. Jean
Status update: CPF education and outreach is ongoing. Tabling at transfer station and Phillis Bridge Farm CSA distribution days. Door knocking campaign will begin this week.

Laura Rose reports that the project of improving the maps of the NRI and CPP, in cooperation with Vassar’s Neil Curri, 2 interns, Roberta Clemments and Michael Hartner (of the ECC) is

going well; 3 new maps highlighting the “most important to preserve” scores are being prepared for discussion at the next mapping meeting.

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

Laura Rose

WVLT started monitoring. WVLT will get all monitoring done before December 31, 2022.

Kay and/or Tara were able to attend 6 site visits so far. Laura Rose will email the group as scheduling of WVLT becomes available, so others can also join and walk.

Next scheduled visit is October 27, 2022 with a rain date of the 28th. WVLT will be walking the Katz property as well as the Town owned Halcyon and Bruynswick Road properties.

There have been some violations found during the Town-Owned Properties site visits, including at the property on Guilford Road. There is a need for surveys and good boundary marking to be sure of the boundary lines. The technology is good but there can be a pretty large margin of error near the estimated boundary lines. Laura R suggested we might want to do at least this survey before contacting the neighbor (who has built a fence on, and is mowing town property.) We have about \$1,000 left in the budget. Jean said the WVLT report might be enough to approach violations with.. but there is a need for further discussion. Laura R to seek an estimate for a survey.

Discussed: How should volations be addressed? Who should the letter of violation come from? Where should the reports from WVLT live?

Agreed: a copy should be kept with GOSC in our private google drive. One copy should be provided to the Town...probably to the Code Enforcement Officer. A meeting will need to happen with Marybeth to determine more about the procedure we're going to follow.

Laura R asked if we want to make this information public; Linda Geary said: this data can be obtained by a FOIL request. We discussed that our Google Drive isn't open to the public, so we aren't putting the info on public display by storing it there.

Discussed: Once all reports from WVLT are received for town-owned parcels, there should be a meeting with the supervisor and code enforcement officer to review the reports and what our procedure for addressing violations should be.

In relation to encroachment violations, you can't get adverse possession of a town owned property, so there's no "time is of the essence" issue in addressing the fence on the Guilford Road property.

Goal #3: Educate and Encourage Voluntary Conservation

- Gardiner Day Planning

Tara, Laura R, Kay

Educate: Gardiner Day Success – Lessons learned Laura Rose/Tara

The maps and quiz were engaging to the community. Many people took the quiz and asked great questions. Jenkins Lueken donated a box of apples for us to give away. The Rice Krispie treats and lollipops were also a hit, and a motivating factor to get kids to answer questions.

Where to house maps and exhibit materials? - Marybeth said we can keep them on top of the NRI maps in town hall. Laura Rose purchased a portfolio case to keep maps and the banner in.

Voluntary Conservation: Jean has been getting a variety of inquiries. One person asked her how he can donate a conservation easement. She suggests we think more about what this program should look like.

Jean asked if someone in the group is willing to take the lead; Laura Wong Pan agreed to field phone calls or other inquiries that may come in, but all were hesitant to take the whole of this on. We agreed to discuss the components needed for this program further at a next meeting and perhaps divvy up the work of putting it together better.

We have done preliminary work in creating scoring criteria for evaluating parcels. This may need an update based on the info available in the CPP.

We need fact sheets on a variety of topics, including:
Understanding the real property tax implications. Generally, what all the tax implications are. They need to be told to consult with their attorney and tax professional to get independent advice. But we should have some general information about the tax benefits.

Jean asked us to think about what additional information GOSC can and should give to people looking to donate a conservation easement to the Town.

Budget for next year.

Jean

No update. Waiting for town board approvals.

Gardiner Activities related to GOSC

- Drinking Water Protection Committee : Linda Geary

Drinking water meeting in September. Committee found 7 transducers that were put in in 2014, for deep well monitoring. They are working to get historical data and put in more monitors. On Milk Street, over the last 7 years, the water table has gone down 7 feet. The level at the Library went down as well. They are looking at the balance between development and water

resources, especially as there is more development being planned on for the Hamlet. The state water people will give a report to the town.

Miscellaneous

Question: Will GOSC be merged with the CPF advisory committee?

No. There will be a separate advisory committee for CPF, one GOSC member to be on that advisory committee per the law passed. Guidelines/ responsibilities still need to be completed for GOSC and CPF.

Meeting end at 7:02