

LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 28, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors Barrett, A. Johnson, Sausville; Tom Lewis; Jamie O'Neill, Planning; Julie Stokes, Saratoga PLAN; Press.

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Peck introduced Julie Stokes, the representative from Saratoga County for the Region 5 Open Space Committee.

Mrs. Stokes said that Supervisor Wood has asked that Fish Creek be added to the Region 5 Open Space Plan as one of the areas. It was proposed to amend the language in the proposal to include fish creek as follows:

Kayderosseras and Fish Creek Corridor – Saratoga Lake Wetlands

The Kayderosseras and Fish Creeks flow through four towns, three villages and the City of Saratoga Springs in Saratoga County. The Kayderosseras Creek flows into Saratoga Lake whose outlet is Fish Creek, which flows into the Hudson River in Schuylerville. The creeks and lake are outstanding resources for activities such as fishing, canoeing, rowing and kayaking. They also provide significant wetlands and natural habitat. Public access is spotty along the creeks.

Mrs. Stokes asked if the wetlands should be added?

Mr. Peck said that he would recommend today, that it be restricted to the two creeks. Mr. Peck asked if there were any downside. He stated that by getting it into the Open Space plan it helps towards Environmental Protection funding grants. The following towns encompass Saratoga Lake: Saratoga, Malta, Stillwater, and the City of Saratoga Springs. In order to be included in the Region 5 Open Space Plan each of those towns would have to submit resolutions of support. Mr. Peck said he wanted to make sure that local input was obtained.

Mr. Sausville said the town of Malta would most likely be in support of including the Creeks in the Open Space plan. He said the larger the ecological area the better, including the wetlands.

Mr. Peck requested that Mrs. Stokes speak with each of the towns, Malta, Saratoga, Stillwater and the City of Saratoga Springs to see if they are in support of including the wetlands in the Region 5 Open Space Plan.

Mrs. Stokes requested including the Blanding's Turtle Recovery Area into the Region 5 Open Space Plan containing the following language as proposed by DEC.

Blandings Turtle Recovery Area

Blandings turtles are a threatened species in New York that have recently been found in areas in central and eastern Saratoga County. These lands are outside of the boundaries of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park project. Some of these areas, particularly those in the Towns of Wilton and Northumberland are facing significant pressure from subdivisions and retail development. DEC will acquire properties, in fee or under easement, containing Blandings Turtle, and the properties will become part of the Saratoga Sandplains Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Peck said the town of Northumberland would be supportive in including the Blandings Turtle in the Region 5 Open Space Plan. Mr. Johnson said Wilton would also be supportive.

Mr. Stokes also proposed the preservation of the Petrified Sea Gardens site in Saratoga Springs. She is currently in discussions with the landowner, Palette Stone Corp. and DEC officials about the state acquiring it. The property, which was open to the public until two years ago, contains rock-embedded sea fossils, she said.

Mr. Barrett said the town of Clifton Park is requesting that the county back the preservation of the Stony Creek Reservoir off Englemore Road, which is currently used as a backup water source owned by Colonie.

Stony Creek Reservoir Natural Area, Town of Clifton Park, Saratoga County, NY

The Stony Creek Reservoir was identified as a specific plan goal and long-range opportunity for protection of water supply and natural resources in the Town of Clifton Park Open Space Plan adopted by the town board in 2003. Drinking water supply protection was a number one survey response in the towns open space surveys regarding values for open space in 2002, and a second survey in 2007.

The Latham Water District (Town of Colonie) owns the Stony Creek Reservoir and key surrounding lands totaling approximately 1,000 acres. The reservoir has been used as a back up public water supply by Latham Water District.

Mrs. O'Neill said she would be mailing out the grant applications on Wednesday, April 30th, as well putting them on the county website. A copy will be put in each of the supervisor's mailboxes as well.

Mrs. Stokes said she would reach out to supervisor Wood in the Town of Saratoga to gather his support for the recommended additions to the Region 5 Open Space Plan as described above, along with Mr. Collins from Palette Stone with regard to the Petrified Sea Gardens, and report back to Mr. Peck.

Mr. Peck said he attended the monthly meeting of the Saratoga/Washington on the Hudson Partnership Committee. Assemblyman McDonald held a press conference after the meeting to highlight that there is now a structure in place with four officers. Siena College attended the meeting, and has setup a new center of learning, focusing on

revolutionary war studies, and taking advantage of the proximity to the park and future possibilities to partner with the partnership.

Mrs. Stokes said the Region 5 Open Space Committee is due to make their recommendations to central DEC officials on May 29th.

Mr. Peck said the next Land Preservation committee meeting would be scheduled to the Call of the Chair.

On a motion made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Johnson the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom