

LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 26, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisor Sausville, Southworth, and Yepsen; David Miller, Tom Lewis; Julie Stokes, Laura Wells, Saratoga PLAN; Jason Kemper, Jamie O'Neill, Planning; Press.

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

Mr. Peck said the first item of business is to set the submission dates of the applications for the grant program. He reminded everyone that the county increased the grant program this year to \$750,000 up from the prior \$500,000.

The committee agreed to keep the grant application dates the same as last year from May 1st through July 31, 2008.

Mrs. Wells asked if the committee would consider including stewardship costs as part of the county grant awards. Mr. Peck said a couple of years ago there was discussion on how to best utilize the dollars that we have. At that point we did not want to pay for stewardship costs, we wanted to put dollars toward acquisitions as much as possible, understanding that there were some legal costs and surveying that were related. Applications were reviewed from Saratoga PLAN last year, with some confusion on how to calculate the 5%. The bottom line was that if it was a \$200,000 acquisition cost, it was 5% of the \$200,000, which could be a grant application for \$210,000. Mr. Peck said, with the limited dollars that the county has he did not want to get in the middle of a stewardship program. I would rather see us understand that we are under valued on our legal, surveying, auxiliary costs and transactional costs and possibly increasing that to 10% of the project.

Mr. Lewis said he wanted to thank the Supervisors to going from \$500,000 to \$750,000 for the open space program.

Mr. Sausville suggested allowing up to 10% of the actual costs.

Mr. Miller agreed with that approach. He suggested two other ideas: One, not to exceed 10% of the project costs and clearly defining the project costs. Second, should a property be donated to a community or Saratoga PLAN all costs could be created potentially from the grant program if it is a donation of the land and possibly put a dollar limit on it.

Mr. Miller said the stewardship costs are a critical need, but need to be solved with another pot of money and not taken from this pot of money for all purposes. Perhaps this issue should be brought to the county at some point to set up a stewardship fund to help fund private organizations and municipalities.

Mrs. Stokes distributed a current listing of the Open Space Plan Projects in Saratoga County. She said the deadline for any amendments is the end of May.

The next Land Preservation committee was scheduled for April 28th at 4:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Miller the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom