

Land Preservation Committee Minutes

April 27, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors A. Johnson, Sausville and Wood; Jason Kemper, Jamie O'Neill Planning; Tom Lewis, Saratoga Springs; David Miller, Clifton Park; Press.

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Kemper said he would not be able to remain as a member of the Land Preservation committee, as he is responsible to participate in the reviewing of applications.

Mrs. O'Neill suggested either Mr. Haight from American Farmland Trust or Laura Ten Eyck from Indian Ladder Farms as a replacement for Mr. Kemper's position on the committee.

The committee asked that Mrs. O'Neill contact Mr. Haight to see if he would be interested in being a member of the Land Preservation Committee.

Mr. Sausville suggested Elaine Chinian Ball, Regional Parks Director as another possibility.

Mrs. O'Neill said she would review the committee suggestions with committee Chairman Barrett.

Mrs. O'Neill distributed a letter to all committee members that was received by the Planning Department from Saratoga PLAN, laying out status reports with regard to three projects that PLAN is working on and the county has dedicated money towards. The following were included:

The Blandings Turtle - A project in the town of Northumberland that has been ongoing since 2007. This project is waiting for State funding and a contract. Progress is being made and it is anticipated that the project will close by late 2010 or early 2011.

The Sweeney Farm – A portion of the farm is in Malta and the other portion is in Stillwater. The project has been ongoing since 2008. Work continues with the Sweeney's to close the two projects.

Mrs. O'Neill said the Willow Marsh Farm, in the Town of Ballston was a state-funded project in 2007, which the county is still working to close. There was a contract extension from the State until March of 2011; however, Mrs. O'Neill said she is hopeful that this will be closed by the end of 2010.

Mrs. O'Neill said all the contracts for 2009 have been signed; however, none of the contracts have been closed to date.

- A contract for open space in Clifton Park is close to closing.
- In the Town of Northumberland the Town Attorney and Supervisor are reviewing an easement, and it is expected that the contract will be closed in the next few months.
- The Hoogeveen Farm is a State funded project in the town of Saratoga. Due to the State's situation, the project is at a standstill. It was announced last May that the grant was awarded; however, there has been no contract received from the State to date.

Mrs. O'Neill said planning recommends not making any changes to the application for 2010. The committee agreed.

Mr. Johnson said since the State is not going to be doing any PDR funding for the next couple of years, is this going to affect farmland applications, and the county's ability to work with them?

Mrs. O'Neill said, it might, but on a whole there has been an increase in the number of applications for smaller farms between 60 to 70 acres. These don't necessarily rank highly with the State, but they are important to the county, and the county will do their best to help them.

Mrs. O'Neill said the application period in the last few years has been May 1st through July 30th. The committee decided to remain with the same application period for 2010.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom