

LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

October 13, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Sausville, Wood; Jenkins; Tom Lewis, Saratoga Springs; Jason Kemper, Jaime O'Neill, Planning; Press

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order.

Chairman Barrett stated the Committee had a working meeting not too long ago. Supervisor A. Johnson and David Miller were at that meeting, but they could not be here today, but they sent e-mails stating support for the four projects we narrowed it down to, he said. We reviewed the applications, and since that time, the Committee had additional time to do research and ask questions and do some more digging. He thanked Jason and Jaime for their work throughout this process. It is a long process, but it is a great program, he said. He stated Saratoga County has made a tremendous down payment on the open space preservation efforts for the County for many years to come.

Ms. O'Neill stated the grant period was from May 1 to July 30, 2010. Ten applications were received – 7 farmland protection and 3 open space acquisitions. The total requested from the County was \$2.3 million, she said. More money is being requested than what the Committee has to hand out which is \$500,000 this year, she said.

Chairman Barrett said through this process, we were looking for partnerships. We look for matching funds, and we want the most bang for our buck and support a number of programs throughout the County regionally, he said. A lot went into the discussion that took place at our working meeting, he added.

Ms. O'Neill reviewed the four applications for the Towns of Clifton Park, Moreau, Saratoga and Wilton. Chairman Barrett said we are happy with the level of funding the Board of Supervisors provides. We all wish it was more, but a half million dollars is a very sound investment, he said.

Mr. Jenkins said the land in his town was zoned R2 and 59 housing units were planned for there, but was held up for water. This has access to C.R. 28, and has a gully that feeds right into the river, he said. We have been working on this since 2008. Two to three developers worked with the people, but there were issues with the Army Corps of Engineers, he said. This will give us 160 acres of parkland, he stated. Chairman Barrett said this speaks to the development pressures on these properties which was one of the major deciding factors at the working meeting.

Mr. Sausville said on the total project costs, are they based on appraisals or estimates? Ms. O'Neill said primarily estimates at this stage of the game. Mr.

Kemper said we have a list of 9 – 10 items before our Auditor issues a check, so we will need a certified appraisal. Mr. Sausville asked if the grant amount is a fixed amount or does it vary? Mr. Kemper said in the past, we have spelled out the exact dollar amount listed in the application on the resolution. In the past I have had to come back to the Board because we are spelling out these exact dollar amounts, and if it doesn't meet requirements, I have to come back to the Board, he said. Mr. Sausville suggested the Committee use a consistent approach across the board. Mr. Kemper said this year, we are a little more solid. Mr. Sausville said he would like to see a fixed grant amount. I would not want to treat one application different from another, he said. Mr. Lewis said if the applicant says they put up X amount, the municipality needs to put up 10% of that X amount. If these municipalities overmatch, they are still meeting the expectations, he said. Mr. Kemper mentioned for open space, it is a 50% match for that to meet requirements. I do not think we have many issues this year, he said. The County Attorney just wanted to eliminate me from coming back to the Committee in the future, he said. Mr. Lewis said the matching money has to be 10% of what was on the application or Jason would have to come back to the Committee.

Mr. Kemper suggested that the resolution state the local match has to be within 10% of the total project cost. Chairman Barrett said we can add that statement to the resolution for this year, but for the future, Jason can talk to the County Attorney about that.

On a motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Wood, the following projects were awarded the Farmland/Open Space Grants:

- ❖ **Town of Clifton Park, the sum of \$90,239.50 upon the condition that the Town of Clifton Park contributes no less than \$539,760.50 for an estimated purchase price of \$630,000 for the purchase of 39+/- acres of the Stoney Creek Reservoir in the Town of Clifton Park.**
- ❖ **Town of Moreau, the sum of \$75,000 upon the condition that the Town contributes no less than \$75,000 for an estimated total of \$150,000 to purchase 59+/- acres of open space adjacent to the Betar Recreational Park owned by the Town along Fort Edward Road.**
- ❖ **Town of Saratoga, the sum of \$244,521 upon the condition that the landowners and Saratoga PLAN contributes no less than \$50,000 for an estimated purchase price of \$294,521 for the purchase of development rights of 82+/- acres of farmland along Southard Road in the Town of Saratoga.**
- ❖ **Town of Wilton, Frawly Property located on Ruggles and King Road, the sum of \$90,239.50, upon the condition that the Town and unspecified agencies contribute no less than \$109,760.50 for an estimated total of \$200,000 to purchase land adjacent to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park in the Town of Wilton.**

Total amount of \$500,000 and to include the statement that *the local match has to be within 10% of the total project cost.*

Ms. O'Neill distributed copies of a letter to Chairman Barrett from Supervisor Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga, dated June 16, 2010, to formally withdraw the Furlani Open Space application from the Land Preservation Program. Ms. O'Neill said we awarded that in 2007, and this was officially letting the Committee know the original owner was no longer interested.

Chairman Barrett stated the Committee's recommendations will be sent to the Law & Finance Committee later today. He thanked the Committee and the Planning Department.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann