

Saratoga County Land Preservation
Committee Minutes
Saratoga County Planning Office
April 20, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lucia; Supervisors Barrett and Wood; Jason Kemper, Director of Planning; Maria Trabka, Saratoga PLAN; Jamie O’Neill, Planner.

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

Mrs. O’Neill distributed a copy of the 2016 Saratoga County Farmland Protection and Open Space Grant Program to all committee members for their review. She said a change was made to the way that the grant applications were submitted. Prior a request was made for 10 paper copies to be submitted by the cutoff date. A change was requesting only five hard copies be submitted with one electronic copy.

Mrs. Trabka suggested the following changes to the Opens Space Grant Application Program:

Required Project Maps

- Assistance with GIS Mapping would be provided to any applicant requested through the County Planning Department.

Eligible Applicants

- Saratoga County Municipalities and not for profit land trusts can apply. She said this should be written in one place so it is clear.
- Mrs. Trabka asked about Landowners; in the application it appears that they can apply to the grant program, but how would that work? Ms. O’Neill stated that the purpose of this is so that landowners who might be working with a group other than PLAN could approach the Municipality with a potential application. We have had landowners in the past that wish to conserve their land, go straight to the municipal entity for assistance with achieving that goal as well. We don’t want to preclude anyone from thinking they are ineligible to pursue County grant funding. They still have to have municipal support evidenced by a resolution. The county funding still goes through the municipality, but it may end up being a project that a landowner and a municipality partner to conserve land, either open space or farmland.

Project Eligibility

- If there is not time to submit a resolution of support, a Letter of Intent signed by the **Chief Elected Official** on letterhead can be submitted in the resolution's place.

Eligible Costs

- The eligible local share can include transaction costs, stewardship fees, and project management

The committee agreed to establish the 2016 grant period from June 1, 2016 to September 1, 2016.

Mrs. O'Neill distributed a listing of all grant awards for 2015 to the committee with a total of \$371,833.10 in requested county funds. She stated that at this point all of the awardees are in different stages of negotiation with landowners and working to close projects.

Mrs. Trabka said as of this week, Saratoga PLAN is not pursuing acquisition of the Pitney Farm in the City of Saratoga Springs.

Supervisors requested that the staff get the policy finalized for moving funds out of the reserve account.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Barrett the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom