

Land Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2017 2:00pm

Saratoga County Planning Department 50 West High Street Ballston Spa NY 12020

Committee Members Present: Supervisor Richard Lucia, Chairman, Supervisor Philip Barrett, Supervisor Alan Grattidge, Supervisor Tom Wood, Supervisor John Collyer, Maria Trabka, Saratoga PLAN and Jason Kemper, Director, Saratoga County Planning.

Staff: Jaime L. O'Neill County Planning Department

Chairman Lucia called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm

A motion was made by Supervisor Wood to approve the March 26, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Supervisor Collyer, Motion carried 7-0.

Ms. O'Neill provided project summaries for the 3 grant applications received during the 2017 application period. Total grant requests received were \$150,000 to permanently protect approximately 316 acres that will help to protect a watershed, preserve former boy scout camp and assist a landowner to preserve open space across 3 municipalities in the County. Total estimated project costs are over \$809,641. City of Saratoga Springs has applied for a grant of \$50,000 to purchase a 2 acre parcel of land along Loughberry Lake that is deemed as important area for protection of water supply and serve as a greenway buffer to NYS Rte. 50. Total project cost is \$139,889.00. Town of Milton has applied for a grant of \$50,000 to assist with the Town's purchase of the former Boyhaven Boy Scout camp. The camp is approximately 297 acres with Kayaderosseras Creek frontage, 2 ponds assorted buildings, camp sites and forest. Total estimated project cost is \$569,752. The Town of Halfmoon has applied for a grant of \$50,000 to facilitate the purchase of land from a landowner in memoriam of their mother. This land borders the Zim-Smith Mid County trail and has wetlands and woodlands for wildlife habitat. The estimated project cost is \$100,000. Discussion was had about providing additional guidance for applications with respect to the submitted grant budget for future grant rounds.

Supervisor Grattidge asked that Jason seek guidance from the County Attorney's office regarding clawback clauses and grant awards for future reference. A motion was made by Supervisor Barrett to recommend that the grants presented by recommended to the Law and Finance Committee for funding, Supervisor Collyer seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Second order of business was to discuss the upcoming New York State Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program for FY2018 and timing of the Land Preservation Committee's application period for 2018. Ms. Trabka talked about the anticipated process for FY 2018 and the importance of having County support of grant applications prior to applying to NYS. Many projects that have applied to the state were unable to make use of the grant program due to timing of the County and State grant programs.

Ms. O'Neill provided project status updates for awarded grant projects from 2015 and 2016. The committee awarded 7 grants in 2015. Three of those grants have been awarded Farmland Protection grant money from New York State and Saratoga PLAN is working towards completing project files. Roberts is expected to close soon. The remaining projects are expected to close in 2018. The Towns of Moreau and Milton have had minor changes to the grant project since they were originally awarded in 2015. Moreau had a reduction in purchase price which reduces the overall project cost and county grant amount. Milton had a reduction in acreage of a project due

to a landowner change. Ms. O'Neill indicated that both of these projects will need resolution amendments through the Board of Supervisors.

The committee awarded 3 grants in 2016, two of which are full donations of land and one which has closed in July in the Town of Galway.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Supervisor Barrett, seconded by Supervisor Collyer, the meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.