

Land Preservation Committee Minutes
June 5, 2018 – 4:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Dick Lucia; Committee members Phil Barrett, Alan Grattidge, Jason Kemper, Maria Trabka, Sandra Winney and Tom Wood; Allison Hargrave, Planning; Michael Horn, Saratoga PLAN.

Jason Kemper called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Barrett the minutes of the September 26, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper gave an update on previously awarded projects. Mr. Kemper said that a chart was sent out to the board in February.

2015 Town of Moreau project has closed, they are submitting their paper work for reimbursement. 2015 project in the Town of Clifton Park is open. Mr. Kemper requested an update on the status of this project from the Town.

2015 project from the Town of Malta currently being reviewed by Ag. and Markets.

2015 project in the Town of Charlton expected to close within the next two to three months.

2016 project in the Town of Clifton Park which has closed and they are awaiting reimbursement.

2016 Town of Galway project just closed and has been paid.

Project in the Town of Wilton is in the appraisal process and getting ready to close.

Town of Milton Boyhaven Parcel is under discussion.

Town of Halfmoon has a project under landowner negotiations.

Project in the City of Saratoga Springs has closed and is awaiting reimbursement.

All projects equal \$422,109, the Open Space Reserve Account currently has a balance of \$510,686 therefore there will be a remaining unallocated balance of approximately \$88K.

Ms. Hargrave said that the 2018 New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) announced that there is \$38M in funding for New York State Farmland Protection and Implementation Grants (FPIG). Applications are due at the end of August and Saratoga PLAN will be taking the lead on all or most applications. Local funding can be provided from Saratoga County and also local municipalities. Ms. Hargrave said that the Saratoga County Farmland Protection and Open Space Grant Program approved applicants will move on to this State Funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Barrett, approving the 2018 Open Space Grant Applications contingent on State Funding, local funding, and Board approval of an additional \$88K in funding from the Open Space Fund. Ms. Trabka recused herself from the vote as an applicant.

Ms. Hargrave distributed copies of the Saratoga County Farmland Protection and Open Space Grant Program applications. Ms. Trabka said that their goal is to figure out how to get the most farmland protected in the County. Mr. Horn said that the State RFP is confusing. If there is no local match for a project, then the project would be taken forward and if awarded, would get 87.5% State Funding and have 12.5% land owner match. If there is a local match, County and/or Town funding, the State will pay a maximum of 75% of the project cost. The flipside of this is that the

project will rank better in the State evaluations in competing for a portion of the \$38M if there is a local match. Ms. Trabka said that \$38M could be the highest amount the State has put out at one time. Ms. Trabka said that \$7.1M has been allocated for the Eastern region which encompasses from St. Lawrence down to Delaware and Sullivan.

There are six project applications being discussed that have also been ranked by the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board. There is currently \$100K in open space funding, Mr. Kemper said that a resolution could be passed to also include the remaining \$88K that is currently the reserve account, the Supervisors on the Committee agreed. Mr. Kemper said that some current projects may also come off the table which could free up additional funding. Mr. Barret said that a solar farm is being considered for the parcel in Clifton Park which may change the dynamic, however they are still planning to use the Open Space funding for this parcel's project. Mr. Kemper said that other projects may come in less once they close, Milton project is also in limbo. Mr. Horn said that the Towns of Ballston and Clifton Park are considering providing local funding for the projects in their municipalities however have not provided an official commitment at this point. The Towns of Galway, Northumberland and Saratoga have expressed that they are unable to provide local funding. Mr. Barrett said that development pressure in his area continues to be very strong. Several scenarios were discussed at length and the following funding was decided upon, contingent on local funding being provided from the Towns of Clifton Park and Ballston to bring their respective projects up to the required 12.5% of total project cost.

Bowman Orchards – Town of Clifton Park	\$69K
Hanehan Farm – Town of Saratoga	\$67K
Brookdale Farm – Town of Ballston	\$37K
Maple Hill Farm – Town of Clifton Park	\$14K

Maple Hill Farm approval will require Clifton Park to provide \$57K. If Clifton Park cannot provide this funding, then County funding will be removed and offered to Lendl Farm in the Town of Galway. Mr. Kemper said that he will submit the necessary paperwork to the Law & Finance Committee requesting to move the additional \$88K out of the Open Space Reserve Account. Ms. Trabka said that they have requested the Town of Clifton Park to consider being the lead applicant on their projects with assistance from the County to get the applications in and projects done. Mr. Horn said that budgets can be adjusted for in-kind services from Towns and County. The Towns of Ballston and Saratoga are considering to be the easement holders.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Barrett the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board