

Land Preservation Committee Minutes
September 2, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Alan Grattidge; Committee members Tom Wood, Jason Kemper, Maria Trabka; Chairman Preston Allen; Jeffrey Williams, Planning; Matt Rose, County Administrator.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Kemper the minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper gave an update on outstanding previously awarded projects. Mr. Kemper distributed a spreadsheet detailing the projects. The spreadsheet is attached to these minutes. Mr. Kemper said that for the 2017 Town of Milton Camp Boyhaven project, the Town is discussing the possibility of removing the project from consideration. The landowner, Mr. Munter, may be moving forward with a different direction for the parcel. Mr. Kemper said that for the 2019 Town of Greenfield Conant Family Woodlands project, the applicant is reevaluating this project.

Mr. Kemper distributed a handout used to track pending Farmland/Open Space Projects. The handout is attached to these minutes. Mr. Kemper said that no matter whether a project is current year or a prior year project, they are always paid out of the current budget year. At the end of the year, any remaining funds in that Open Space account automatically transfer to the Reserve account. There is \$425,377 in projects that have yet to be funded, the funds are sitting in the reserve account. The current Open Space Reserve account balance is \$535,008.65 leaving \$109,632 not committed to projects. Mr. Kemper said that the Town of Malta Project for \$40,660 was just closed in May so this year's 2020 Open Space account has that \$40,660 already taken out. Therefore remaining in this year's open space account is \$59,340. Mr. Kemper said that the two projects from the Towns of Milton and Greenfield may come off which would add to the uncommitted funds in the reserve account. Ms. Trabka said that the family in Greenfield would like to go forward and have proposed a different configuration that is now before the Town of Greenfield. Ms. Trabka said that they have not heard back yet from the Town of Greenfield but they are very hopeful that they will find an agreeable resolution on that, and is therefore not a dead project by any means at this time.

Mr. Kemper said that an option for the committee is to not do an open space program this year and use reserve funds, or wait until 2021 and see what the Board wants to do with the program. Mr. Grattidge said that he would suggest not going out for new projects this year, any remaining balance from this year's budget will go into the reserve account and next year the Board can decide during this year's budget whether they are going to continue the program. At least there will be some funding in reserve for additional projects. Mr. Wood agreed. Mr. Grattidge said that if there are any projects that close by the end of this year, it should be paid out of this year's budget if the funds are available. Ms. Trabka said that she would hate to not have a round this year because there are some really good projects that will allow access but just need transactional donation type funding. Ms. Trabka said that right now people are reliant on the preserves to get out and get healthy exercise, reduce stress, and get relief from the mental anguish surrounding the Coronavirus. Ms. Trabka said that they have an opportunity to accept a property up near Corinth

where there is very little public access to open space right now. There are some others coming on board in the Palmertown area. Ms. Trabka said that if there is any possibility of having a round this year, she believes it is a good year to support open space. Mr. Grattidge said that unfortunately, with the reduction in the sales tax being received, and with the current economic climate, he does not feel comfortable doing a round this year. Mr. Grattidge said that if they are lucky, they will be able to keep this in the program and have it for future projects, but with only four months left in the year, he does not see how doing a round this year makes sense in this economic climate. Mr. Wood agreed and said that they are not downplaying the value of these projects but the reality is that the revenue at the County level is down and they are trying to go into basically survival mode. Mr. Allen agreed. Mr. Kemper said that he will work with Ms. Trabka on Saratoga Plan's projects and will touch base with all of the others to get a handle on any that may close before the end of the year to have a clear picture prior. Mr. Kemper said that any remaining funds from this year's budget will automatically go into the reserve account, a Board resolution would be needed to change this. Mr. Kemper said that funds from the reserve account could be used to fund some projects in 2021. Mr. Grattidge said that this could be a recommendation from this committee to a future committee, to take a look at it in early 2021 and possibly move some other projects along.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board

Saratoga County Farmland Protection & Open Space Grant Program Status Report -August 26, 2020												
YEAR	Municipality	Project Name	Acreage	S.B.L #	Original County Request	County Awarded	Total Project Cost	Total Outside Funding	Open Space/Farm Protection	Description	Source of Outside Funding	Status
2015	Town of Malta/Saratoga PLAN	Malta Ridge Orchards	131.17-acres	204.-2-37.1	\$40,660	\$40,660	\$650,557	\$619,897	Farm Preservation	The orchard produces apples, cherries peaches corn and vegetables.	\$487,917-NYSDAM, \$40,660-Malta \$81,320-Bowman	Project complete. Reimbursement made May 2020.
2017	Town of Milton	Camp Boyhaven	297-acres	162.-1-14.1 175.-2-3.11 175.-2-3.12 175.-2-3.13	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$569,725	TBD-CFA fundng 2018	Open Space	Former Boy Scout Camp with several buildings, Kayaderoseras Creek and two dammed impoundments on a tributary stream. Proposed to open to public as a passive recreation park.	State CFA Funding, Sale of land to DEC and in-kind	Town discussing the possibility of removing the project from consideration.
2017	Town of Halfmoon	Floud Farm	17.34-acres	260.-2-8.12	\$50,000	\$50,000	est \$100,000	\$50,000	Open Space	Preservation of land that borders the Zim Smith Trail and Anthony Kill.	In kind services	Survey is being completed.
2018	Town of Clifton Park/Saratoga PLAN	Maple Hill Farm	72.9-acres	236.-2-8.1	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$500,357	NYSDAM Town of Cliftron Park	Farm Preservation	Beef, hay, straw, pumpkins, raspberries and maple syrup traditional family farm.	\$58,000 Town of Clifton Park	Waiting for NYSDAM funding.
2018	Town of Galway/Saratoga PLAN	Lendl Farm	65-acres	186.-2-48	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$274,268		Farm Preservation	Growing corn and hay for dairy feed.	\$232,862 NYSDAM	NYSDAM funded. Contract underway and material being sent to NYSDAM.
2019	Town of Northumberland/Saratoga PLAN	Bolesh Farm	50.9-acres	103.-2-22.1 103.-2-22.2 103.-2-22.3	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$261,107	\$167,707	Farm Preservation	Sheeps, Goats, Chickens, Turkeys and Hay.	Saratoga PLAN - Bargain Sale C.E.	Waiting for contract.
2019	Town of Greenfield	Conant Family Woodlands	69-acres	139.-1-35.1	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$330,973	\$280,973	Open Space	Working forested land.	Saratoga PLAN - Bargain Sale Acq.	Waiting for contract. Family Estate decision.
2019	Town of Milton	Smassano w Farm	24.3	215.-1-17	\$89,972	\$89,972	\$179,854	\$89,972	Farm Preservation	Chicken, Turkeys, Beef, Pigs, Vegetables, Fruits & Berries.	Saratoga PLAN- Bargain Sale C.E.	Waiting for contract.
2019	Town of Clifton Park	Trailhead Park	1.03	283.12-1-92	\$34,450	\$34,450	\$68,900	\$34,450	Open Space	Trailhead for local trail system.	Matching Funds	Contract Executed. Call for reimbursement of \$32,179. Needs 2015 Saratoga County Trails award to be satisfied prior to reimbursement per contract & resolution.

Pending Farmland/Open Space Projects (9-2-2020)					
Year	Municipality	Farmland/Open Space	Original County Grant Award	Final Award	Status
2015	Clifton Park	Open Space	\$50,000.00		Withdrawn 10/2/2019 (will be removed from chart)
2015	Town of Malta	Farmland	\$40,660.00		Paid out of 2020 Budget
2017	Milton	Open Space	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	Pending Withdrawal
2017	Halfmoon	Open Space	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	In Landowner Negotiations, Survey being Completed
2018	Town of Saratoga	Farmland	\$67,000.00		Awarded July 2018 (No Ag and Markets Approval) (Will be Removed from Chart)
2018	Clifton Park	Farmland	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	Waiting on NYSDAM Funding
2018	Clifton Park	Farmland	\$69,000.00		Awarded July 2018 (No Ag and Markets Approval) (Will be Removed from Chart)
2018	Town of Galway	Farmland	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	Waiting on NYSDAM Funding, Contract Underway
2019	Town of Northumberland	Farmland	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	Awaiting Contract
2019	Town of Greenfield	Open Space	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	In Landowner Discussions
2019	Town of Clifton Park	Open Space	\$34,450.00	\$34,450.00	Closed, Need to complete Trails Project for Reimbursement
2019	Town of Milton	Farmland	\$89,927.00	\$89,927.00	Awaiting Contract
		Pending Open Space Projects	\$652,037.00	\$425,377.00	
		Open Space Reserve Account Balance (9-2-2020)	\$535,008.65		
		Reserve Account Available Balance Not Committed to Other Projects	\$109,632		