

GARIDNER OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF 8/18/10 MEETING

PRESENT: Finger, Friedle, Lefevre, Hudson, Moran, Hunter (7:45 PM)

Excused: Cantor, Foster, Koenig, Boylan

Meeting opened at 7:35 with a quorum of 5. Tim Hunter arrived 10 minutes later

Minutes of 6/16/10 meeting: slight amendment from Kathy: 1st sentence in last par. change to: "Warren Wiegand suggested that we ask the Town Board...." Moved Moran, 2nd Hudson. Unan. As amended

Report from Kiernan Farm PDR Fund-Raising: 51 donors; \$9275.00. Signs Up. Cans Out

Discussion of opposition to F-R campaign from some members of the community.

Suggestion: send a donation with a letter to the TB saying that we should have used the bond fund.

Question: has OSI asked Kiernan about a bargain sale. Greg will attempt to get that info from OSI.

Messaging of Campaign"

Signs and Keep taxes low, implies that if bond fund were used there would be big tax increase, when in reality it would be \$4 a year for the median household.

Can we do a monthly pledge campaign? Via paypal. Present that option on the website. Rich will be asked to check that out.

Greg and Kathy reported on their meeting with Laura Ten Eyck of AFT at WVLT on 8/13, and then on Kathy's tour with Laura of easements in the town of Gardiner, which included a meeting with Marty Kiernan, and one with Albert Hess. AFT would like to help us with our ongoing open space and farmland preservation projects, though they noted that they are NOT a funding source.

Tim Marc, and Kathy will organize the November community outreach event: "Agriculture and Development in Our Community". This idea grew out of the meetings with the AFT rep. WVLT has agreed to co-sponsor this event. AFT will provide a speaker (David Haight) on the economic impact of open space and farmland preservation. The timing would be after the elections and after harvest season to hopefully have a wider participation from both the community at large and the farming community in particular.

2011 Plans: Community outreach, Hess farm application to NRCS program, perhaps also Colucci. Meetings with large landowners, with an educational presentation on the tax and other benefits of donated conservation easements.

Questions: Will Albert Hess underwrite the costs of the restricted use appraisal w/o a firm commitment from the town to support the process? What does Albert Hess need from us (the OSC, the TB)? What else might we need from Mr. Hess (e.g., will he cover the upfront costs of the process --- such as a grant writer for the FRPP application)? Greg will pursue these questions with Mr. Hess.

Should OSC pose the question to the TB about what they will or won't do if we go forward with Hess? In particular this references the question of using the bond fund. It was agreed that we would raise this question with the TB at their 2nd October meeting. We will need to know where the TB is on that issue, before we ask Mr. Hess, or anyone else for that matter, to put money up front.

Members are asked to come to the next meeting with: concrete suggestions for 2011 projects/work (please review the notes from Warren Wiegand's presentation); specific items for which we could/should seek funding from the town; and possible revenue streams for OSC work.

NEXT MEETING: 9.15.10 7:30 PM.

Adjourned 9:45 PM

NOTE: At the 8/25 meeting of the Kiernan PDR Fund-Raising Committee, Mike Boylan submitted his resignation from that committee, and also announced, since Greg is on that committee, that he was resigning from the OSC as well. He has informed the TB of his resignation. Therefore we now have an opening for a full member, AND one for an alternate. If OSC members know of folks in the community who might be interested in serving on the OSC, please let me know, so I can reach out to them. I certainly thank Mike for his service, and wish him well in his continued service to the town as chairperson of the planning board.