

Kinnelon Open Space Advisory Committee
March 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bob Collins, Jeff Derwin, Chuck Vreeland, Gene Orcutt, Carol Sventy, Lucy Meyer (late, missed roll call) Absent: Carol Vreeland Invited Guest: MLC not present

Meeting to order, sunshine act, roll call

Public Session:

- Public Present: Chuck Vreeland presented information regarding the Weber Tract's endangered species (barred owl) Denis Mirand is scheduled to come out & verify, vernal pond certification numbers and steep slopes, (Carol S will scan and email to all comm. Members). He also referenced website: www.dbcrrsa.rutgers.edu/ims/vernal/mapfram.htm for additional information. Lucy: download form from website and provide a map.

Status Report: Bob Collins

- O.S. fund is currently (12/31/07) is \$667,000
- Gr. Acres PIG Grant, \$300,000 form of award is not property specific. Allows latitude and provides support when we move forward with the next application.
- MLC not present tonight, Matt Dank indicated he had made a number of applications for various municipalities and only 3 were awarded, he was surprised that so many applications were turned down and that tax dollars were being allocated elsewhere instead.

Kohler Tract: subdivision is ongoing & moving forward between Boonton Twsp, Rockaway & Kinnelon – the closing timeline is 3-6 months. The Boro had previously approved \$25,000 as a contribution out of OS fund toward acquisition of Kohler Tract.

MLC provided Bob with a letter outlining accomplishments of 2007 and goals for 2008. MLC has submitted proposal to retain them for another year at the same fee of \$10,500. If this committee agrees, Bob will submit to the council to approve this fee. Lucy feels that this is a good partnership because they work with the surrounding municipalities to help acquire such properties as Mountain Top, Kohler Pond, and Buck Mountain ...

Unanimously approved: Lucy Meyer, Jeff Derwin, Gene Orcutt, Carol Sventy

Weber Tract:

- Updated number for O.S. fund is currently (12/31/07) is \$667,000
- Can't say for certain that the mayor & council will approve another go at the Morris County Trust Application. If they do not approve it, that's where it will stop.

- Strength of previous application
 - Breached dam
 - Funding sources / partners
 - Property in flux – who is actual owner
 - Split council vote

- Discussion surrounding the funding for the Weber Tract, some think that it should be up front before going to the council, others felt that it was a work in progress, that as we progressed, we would not only gain partners, but also funding.
- Lucy suggested that the Environmental Commission should / could review applications prior to their being submitted. MLC is not paid enough money to do all the research that is required, specifically in regards to the accuracy of the ranking information that is stated in the previous Morris County Trust Application. Public testimony whether in written or spoken word, is very important in making an impression on the council
- Bob suggested taking a different approach - such as our committee making a presentation to the council at a work session.
- Suggestion that the Env. Comm. Look into writing an ordinance to deal with ATVs and off road vehicles so that the land could be protected ... this would look good to the state/county on any application. Currently these vehicles are running rampant and destroying a portion of the Weber tract and other parcels throughout the Boro.

Prioritization - Next meeting we will review priority list and decide if we should pursue another application for the Weber Tract. Last application was rushed.

Will ask MLC attend and bring a summary report of the Highlands Master Plan, so many people are 'picking away' at the plan.

Meeting Adjourned: Lucy Meyer/Gene Orcutt

Minutes approved on May 14, 2008: 1st: Gene Orcutt / 2nd: Carol Vreeland
Submitted by: Carol Sventy, April 15, 2008