

Borough of Kinnelon  
Open Space Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2008

Attendance: Bob Collins, Carol Vreeland, Lucy Meyer, Gene Orcutt, Carol Sventy, Matt Dank (MLC) Absent: Jeff Derwin Invited Guest: None

Sunshine Provision read by Bob Collins

Public Session

- Public: None Present

Public Session Closed

Committee Report: Bob Collins

- Daily Record article regarding the Highlands Master Plan, shows what people perceived was protected under the highlands act is subject to the whims of Trenton. Loosening of Bldg provisions within the highlands area has compromised the original intent of the Highland Act.
- DEP release speaks to fact that state secured four million dollars in NRD dollars (National Resource Damage settlements). Illustrates that there are still companies and areas of the state that are threatening areas of preservation and still people do whatever they want to do in these areas.
- Acknowledgement of Gene Orcutt and Lakeland Hills YMCA Citizen of the Year based upon his conservation efforts in Smoke Rise and Smoke Rise Lake as well as for the Borough Board of Adjustments, Planning Board, the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Environmental Committee.

**Closed Session:** (Carol S, Carol V) – Confidential

Morris Land Conservancy Report: Matt Dank

- Kohler Pond – subdivision application 7/23, to Boonton Twsp., closing in September

Weber Application

- Working on application, intern Katherine has been doing the Lions share of work. Will finish it up and get a copy to bob so we'll have plenty of time to review the application.
- Lucy reiterated that it would be a good idea to include attachments
- Status of negotiations: MLC met with Weber's last month and will meet with them again this month, they discussed a range of #'s, and Matt thinks that between Green Acres, the County, and Boro of Kin. and MLC \$\$ (they do want to fund some properties this year) we can get the money required to purchase this parcel of land
- The Weber's sold to Roseland for 3.3 million dollars, their range is right around that amount. The appraisals that we used last year were under that amount by about 25%-30%, however we have a certified appraisal from Green Acres (that is subject to review) that indicates that this number may be in the middle of these two amounts. Bottom line, we're not too far off base.
- Matt said that there is more Green Acres funding available, possibly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the amount if we have a contract going into the application to the county and to them.
- This is Kinnelon's last big parcel left, so we're going forward, Matt suggests that we ask the county 2.2 million.
- Lucy would like to see the Boro pass an Ordinance in accordance with the Federal Government's & Morris County Park Commission's suggestions

- that would protect critical areas and to prevent ATV's and other off road vehicles from using protected environmentally sensitive property, but that would not ban the use of these vehicles in the entire borough, i.e.: if someone wanted to use these vehicles on their own property, they could.
- The Dam: Roseland has been instructed by DEP to restore the dam to its original condition. When Bob talked to the County last year, park commission hates dams, they have a LONG list of dams to fix, why DEP would instruct Roseland to repair the dam doesn't make sense. Bob would like to ask if then its possible for the DEP to change their determination and ask Roseland to complete the breach, another option is to ask the Boro to take ownership of the dam and carve out the rest for potential funders. Bob: thought that DEP originally instructed Roseland to breach the dam. Carol V said that the dam itself is small, and well made and will have to be blasted in order to be breached properly
  - Could the reason be due to the fish? Not likely, since fish that are breeding by the dam are not native fish.
  - Weber's were very impressed with the public support and the citizens committee's efforts.
  - We have a much stronger application this year 1. Public support 2. Money from the citizens committee 3. Letter and \$\$\$ from Green Acres supporting the preservation of this property. If we get a contract from the Weber's, then we'll be even stronger yet. Matt hopes to get a resolution to the contract issue within the next 2-3 weeks.
  - Application due 7/25, next council meeting will need to be voted on. We will need people to come out and show support and hopefully to testify and change the vote of the council from a split vote to a unanimous vote in favor of preserving the Weber Tract. Carol V said that Avery Hart has gotten wind of the upcoming council vote and that her chance to voice her opinion. We have no idea how many people will be in attendance at the next council meeting, hopefully not too many as to make the council members uncomfortable.
  - Bob will get back to each of us as to whether or not the application will be on the agenda and Matt will get a copy of the application to Bob who will in turn provide a copy to each council member.
  - We're pursuing tax dollars that have been sent to Trenton/County and we're asking for a portion of that back ... \$\$ for Kinnelon spent in Kinnelon.

**Out of closed session** (Carol V, Lucy M)

Miscellaneous:

- Vice Chairperson – hold to next meeting due to Jeff Derwin's absence
- Approval of previous meeting's minutes also held off to next meeting
- Boro Website: Carol S. asked that if anyone had anything they would like to add to the website, to please get a copy of it to her. Bob C. suggested that a history of land preserved would be nice, especially since so many people have worked so hard for so many years to keep Kinnelon green, driving up the highway, not only is it pleasant to look at, but the temperature difference is much cooler than surrounding towns. Discuss this more at the next meeting.
- Would like to look into other possible partners for funding.

Meeting Adjourned: (Gene Orcutt, Carol Sventy)

Meeting minutes submitted by Carol Sventy