

**Borough of Kinnelon
Open Space Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2009**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Attendance: Bob Collins, Jeff Derwin, Gene Orcutt, Carol Sventy Carol Vreeland, Absent: Lucy Meyer Invited Guest: Matt Dank (LC of NJ)

Carol Sventy read the Sunshine Provision.

Public Session

- Public: none Present - Public Session Closed

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Minutes for the March 11, 2009 meeting were approved with changes by a motion from Bob Collins, seconded by Gene Orcutt

Council Committee Report: Bob Collins

- Still no contract with the Webers. They understand the Borough's request regarding that the dam be remediated prior to Kinnelon taking possession of the property.
- Need to identify potential cost of remediating the dam. A consultant & the DEP will be asked to come back to look at the dam and see if it has already been breached to a standard that DEP will accept.
- Bob referenced an article from the Daily Record about vernal ponds and how environmentally important they are. Bob also mentioned a map that indicated blue dots where the vernal ponds were located; and was on the 'Save the Weber Tract' website. Carol V. added that the map could also be found on the DEP website. Carol V. said that this is where she got the information regarding vernal pools for the Weber Tract.

Land Conservancy of New Jersey Report: Matt Dank

- Weber Tract: Matt added that remediation of the dam could cost as much as \$400,000 or more and referenced West Milford's dam issue. The Webers have hired a consultant to review the dam and hopefully we will have an answer soon. Jeff D. asked what other issues were delaying this from moving forward and the answer was property taxes. Currently, the taxes have been paid through 2007. This payment was made in December 2008.
- Funding: The MUA (Municipal Utilities Authority) has plenty of money. Park Commission is a different story since they are working on a lot of projects. Morris County Trust could extend the grant for another year. We have one year from this point till the county money will be retracted.
- Green Acres funds: Highlands Preservation Act allows landowners to get pre-highlands value for their property – the deadline for the pre-highlands value is June 30, 2009, after this the value of property will be severely reduced as will the amount of money available from Green Acres.
- The State Open Space Trust fund is running out. One side of the table wants to extend the highlands provision and the other side of the table would like to create a new Open Space Trust and get more money into the fund. Hopefully the end result will be that Open Space Committees will be able to have both more time and more money to preserve land.

New OSAC members

- High School Student(s) – received 5 essays from HS students. Looking for two students (one Sophomore & one Junior). As a committee, these were ranked as follows: Mary Fischer, Karima Munem, Amanda Hagl, Matt Vail, & Maria Minor. It was decided to table Matt Vail & Maria Minor. Carol S. will write these refusal letters. Bob suggested adding all three to our committee, which would give our committee a total of 9 members.
- Additional Members – Gene mentioned that we still need representative from the Planning Board. Bob suggested that Gene could be the Planning Board representative, and either Carol S. or Carol V. could be the Environmental Commission Representative.
- Sub-committee: Jeff Derwin, Carol V. & Gene Orcutt. Carol S. will provide the sub-committee with the students contact information and they will arrange to interview these three candidates.

Review List of Property Prioritizations

- Matt suggested looking for a project that would be good for the county. He believes that after looking at the original group of properties, the Butler Reservoir parcel looks like the best property. Matt thought that the money from the sale of this property would be incentive to the Borough of Butler to cooperate.
- Bob suggested evaluating the 30 acres behind the Borough Hall since there is a real need for recreation areas in town. Especially since the Boonton Avenue Recreation Field (the one by Taylor Town reservoir) is owned by the Town of Boonton. Kinnelon only leases it from Boonton. The down side to this piece behind the Borough, is that it is very wet and very rocky and we may be subject to DEP/Highlands Exemptions as well.
- Matt said that if we don't come up with a piece of property before the county deadline, we still have a considerable amount of money should something come up. It might be better for us to wait and take a breather regarding land preservation. He also suggested looking for 2-3 acre parcels for active recreation.
- Carol V. asked about Lake Rickabear and Kinnelon's right of first refusal since Kinnelon co-signed a note for the dam remediation. Bob had the idea of approaching the Girl Scouts, and potentially purchasing 10 acres within the complex that would be suitable for an active recreation complex. She said that the Borough does not have their own lake facility for the public to use.
- Carol S. mentioned a number of parcels along the Ramapo fault in the eastern portion of Kinnelon that Lucy had brought to her attention. Lucy had suggested reaching out to the Park Commission since they were buying up smaller parcels and that it would be a good idea to partner with them on these parcels.
- Carol S. asked Matt about an updated Open Space map that would show all of the recently acquired properties of the past several years.
- In summary, Matt will go over the map with Barbara at the Conservancy and will have an updated list of properties for our next meeting. He will also talk to her regarding a new Open Space map of Kinnelon.

New Business:

- Regarding updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan
 - Matt suggested waiting until next year to update the Open Space & Recreation Plan and for the next ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) grant rounds. An amendment could then be done at that time.
- Bob complimented Gene Orcutt for his work with Lake Kinnelon in Smoke Rise and his efforts to educate people regarding phosphates and other water pollutants.
- Bob mentioned that the council and the Environmental Commission are reviewing the Borough's Tree Ordinance. Bob said that we had received correspondence from our Assembly members regarding a tree care / licensing ordinance, and that there appears to be some support at the state level for this. Regarding non phosphorus fertilizers has been also moved up on the list of items the council is considering.
- No update regarding the PSE&G power lines going through Kinnelon at this time.

At approximately 8:15pm a motion from Carol Vreeland to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Gene Orcutt.

Minutes approved: Bob Collins / Gene Orcutt
Respectfully submitted by Carol Sventy