

Town of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2015

Members Present: Jean Cronauer, Jean Darlington, Madeline McClave, Bill Michaud.

Chair Jean Cronauer called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

I. and II. Review of Agenda and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Michaud moved, McClave seconded, and all except Michaud (not present on 3/23/15) voted to approve the March 23, 2015, meeting minutes. Darlington asked if minutes could be distributed earlier. McClave said that, due to time constraints, she cannot always prepare the minutes right away and asked if Darlington would be interested in taking on the Secretary role. Darlington said she would and members agreed to add that item of business to the 'Other Business' section of the agenda.

III. Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCAD)

Cronauer said that Bob Moore of P&Z submitted the OSPC draft of Chapters Three and Four (Natural Resource Conservation and Open Space Preservation) to Steve Sadlowski at Town Hall. She said that P&Z cancelled their last meeting and will meet again this week. She does not know if P&Z members received our draft. Michaud asked if there would be a process for the public to comment on the draft POCAD. McClave asked Cronauer if she could find out what the process will be. McClave said that she has not received a new version of the corrected Open Space Map from Sadlowski. She met with him several weeks ago and he agreed that changes would be made to the map itself and to categories of land.

IV. Open Space Policy Initiatives

Cronauer said that she, Michaud and McClave met with Town Assessor Beth Paul and her assistant since the last meeting. The group had a good discussion and Paul is supportive of the concept. She had a few changes in the language due to issue of PA 490 being a state program that cannot be changed at the municipal level. McClave said that Paul had explained that forest and farmland are the two state categories of land within the PA 490 program. A third category, open space, can be created by individual towns and New Hartford has that category as well. Michaud said that a special, new designation would be created for land that would fall under the Lots of Record policy. Michaud reminded members that language about this policy needs to be included in the POCAD first and then we will need a legal opinion before advancing it for a vote by BOS or townspeople. For the POCAD, Michaud wrote up the language and sent it to Cronauer and Paul. He pared it down to make it easier to understand. He will incorporate Paul's changes and share with OSPC members as well as Bob Moore for the revised language to get incorporated in the POCAD. McClave asked if the language could also be simplified to make the general OSPC policy statement on this easier for the average person to understand. Michaud will do that.

V. Update of Open Space Plan

Cronauer thanked Darlington for revising the Open Space Plan and asked members to get their feedback on the updates and questions to Darlington before the next meeting. Members discussed way of referring to committed open space and other vacant land in the Plan. Darlington suggested that a note be added to refer to the way these designations are shown on the new Town Open Space Map in the POCAD. Members discussed what the formal process is to get the revised Plan approved. McClave offered to check with the Town Clerk.

VI. New Hartford Land Trust Report

McClave said NHLT has several May programs coming up: Wildflower Walk (5/2), Work Day at Alfred Sabolcik Property (5/9), Chimney Swift Program at New Hartford Elementary (5/28) and Birding with Fran Zygmunt (5/31). She said three NWR7 High School students helped to clean

up and remove invasives at Riverview Park last Saturday as part of their citizenship requirement with two NHLT Board members. She asked members to help recruit volunteers to work at the Alfred Sabolcik property to prepare it for hiking by midsummer and with other projects.

VII. Executive Session to Discuss Real Estate

McClave moved, Michaud seconded and all voted to enter executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Cronauer moved, McClave seconded and all voted to end executive session at 8:40 p.m.

VIII. Other Business

McClave moved, Michaud seconded and all voted to elect Jean Darlington as the Secretary of the Open Space Preservation Commission. McClave thanked Darlington for taking over this role.

Cronauer said that Karen Griswold-Nelson is now a regular member of the OSPC rather than an alternate.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting is May 18th, one week early because our regular meeting day is also Memorial Day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeline McClave, Secretary
New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission