Open Space Advisory Committee

AGENDA:

1. Introductions
2. History of Open Space Committee
3. Saratoga Springs Open Space Purchases
4. Committee Actions and Path Forward
5. Comments From Committee Members
6. Public Comments
Open Space Advisory Committee

Members:

Matthew Veitch-Chairman
Dave Miller-Vice-Chairman
Bonnie Sellers-Secretary
Chris Walsh
Jim Martinez
Suzanne Kwasniewski
Tim Holmes

Charlie Morrison-Senior Advisor

Tina Carton-Sustainability Coordinator-Staff
Open Space Advisory Committee

**History:**

- Created by City Council July 17, 2001
- Local Law No. 5 of 2001
- Codified into Chapter 110 of the City Code

"to acquire, improve, preserve, protect, maintain the availability of, and improve the City's remaining natural areas, wetlands, trails, watershed protection land, farm land, stream and other green-way corridors, historical and archaeological sites and areas, significant habitats and ecologically important areas, geological landmarks, public access areas and other similar such open land for active and passive park and recreational facilities, and preserve open areas, to enhance the general quality of life and the environment of the City, and thereby benefit the residents and taxpayers of the City".
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$5 Million Open Space Bond:

- Proposition #1 of 2002
  - Established Bond Program
  - Passed with 74% approval
  - Officially enacted the 7/17/2001 Local Law
2002 Open Space Plan:

- Update from the 1994 Open Space Plan
- Commissioned by the Open Space Project
  - Saratoga PLAN
- Resources
- Strategies for Conservation
- Recommended Actions

“By encouraging compatible development in our historic downtown area, and employing smart growth techniques as an antidote to sprawl, we can conserve land, control future tax burdens, and create a valuable network of parks, trails, and recreational areas for future generations”
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Open Space Purchases

12/21/2004: Eger/Baker Property
$38,300
3.83 Acres for Spring Run Trail
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Open Space Purchases

5/18/2005: Ten Spring Woods
$152,800
15.28 Acres near Spring Run Trail
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Open Space Purchases

- 6/14/2005: Corcoran Parcel
- $23,974.32
- 46.72 Acres off Route 50 South at City Line with Milton
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Open Space Purchases

- 6/21/2005: Brust Property
- $499,681.83
- 34.71 Acres - 3 Parcels at Lake Avenue and Weibel Avenue
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Open Space Purchases

- 11/15/2005: Waterfront Property
- $2,000,352.48
- 3.8 Acres off Crescent Avenue on Saratoga Lake
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Open Space Purchases

11/18/2006: Vanderbilt Avenue
$145,102.31
0.28 Acres-Parcel Adjacent to Recreation Center
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Open Space Purchases

- 9/1/2015: Town of Wilton Parcels
- $25,000
- 0.28 Acres-Three Parcels for protection of the Loughberry Lake Watershed
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Open Space Purchases

6/16/2015: Pitney Meadows Community Farm
$1,165,000 (authorized)
Purchase of Development Rights for protection of the Pitney Farm
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Open Space Purchases

Other Notable Preserves in Saratoga Springs

2001: Ramsdill Parcel-Crescent Avenue
Joint Project between the City & Saratoga PLAN
$140,000 ($51,500 from the City)
29.15 acres
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Open Space Purchases

Other Notable Preserves in Saratoga Springs

- 6/19/2012: Blodgett Parcel
- Kaydeross Avenue East
- $60,000 ($30,000 County Grant)
- 4.44 Acres - Land near Kaydeross Creek for kayak launch and water access

- 2012: Rowland Hollow Creek Preserve
- Grand Avenue
- Joint Project - Saratoga Rotary & Saratoga PLAN
- 45 Acres - Trails, Woods, Wetlands
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Committee Actions and Path Forward

- Re-Established Committee 2015-2016
  - Committee By-Laws
    - Established Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary
    - Better defined role of OSAC in City Government
  - Parcel Acquisition work
    - Pitney Farm Conservation Easement
    - Crown Oil Parcel-Ballston Avenue & Route 50
    - Work to incorporate Corcoran Parcel into joint partnership with Town of Milton and Village of Ballston Spa
  - Review of other potential acquisitions
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Committee Actions and Path Forward

- Open Space Funding Sources
  - Current $5 Million Bond Act
    - Almost fully depleted
    - New referendum for further funding
  - Other Possible revenue streams
    - Grant Funding
    - Developer Fees
    - Real Estate Transfer Taxes
    - Regular funding in City Budget
• Updating the 2002 Open Space Plan
  • Begin/Add Focus on Inner District
    • No provisions for strategic Inner District Parcels
    • ‘Pocket Parks’
    • Strong Reliance on Developers to preserve Urban Open Space
• Maintain Policy of Outer District Preservation
  • ‘City in the Country’
  • Recreation and Passive Forest
  • Find new strategic parcels for Preservation
• Natural Resource Conservation Plan/Ecological Resources Study
  • No Study has ever been done
  • Need to determine what ecological resources are important
  • Lands to be preserved should take ecological resources into consideration
  • Inventory will provide a foundation for municipal land-use and conservation planning
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Comments From Committee Members
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Public Comments
Open Space Advisory Committee

Thank You for Attending

For more information, please contact:

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