Minutes of the WAC Easement Committee Meeting
May 1, 2019

Members Present:
Tom Hutson, Committee Chair
Dave Cammer, Committee Vice-Chair
Bud Gladstone
Fred Hunke
John Verhoeven
John Riedl
Duncan Schmitt, NYC DEP

Members Absent:

Others Present:
Arlene Weissman, NYC DEP (via phone)
Ryan Naatz, Easement Program Director
Suzie Seymour, Easement Program Executive Assistant
Josh Gorman, Easement Program Acquisition Coordinator
Ethan Rubenstein, Land Conservation Acquisition Specialist
Rob Birdsville, Easement Program Stewardship Coordinator
Dennis Heinz, Land Conservation Stewardship Specialist
Mike Morales, Land Conservation Stewardship Specialist
Troy Bookhout, Easement Program Conservation Planner
Craig Cashman, WAC Executive Director
Sally Fairbairn, WAC Chair

Public Attendees:
Kristin Janke Schneider, Delaware County Planning Dept

I. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting Called to Order at 10:05 am.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
✓ Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 3, 2019 public meeting of the
Easement Committee.
Motion: Bud Gladstone
Second: Dave Cammer
**Motion Carried**
III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO PUBLIC AGENDA
Handouts:
- Work Plan Summary for FY 2020
- Easement Committee meeting schedule through 7/10/20 (July 3, 2019
  meeting cancelled)
- PID #6600 – to be discussed in Executive session

IV. CHAIR’S REPORT / PROGRAM MOTIONS
1. ✪Motion to Form the ACE Applicant Scoring / Ranking Working Group
    Motion: John Verhoeven
    Second: Fred Huneke
    **Motion Carried**

2. ✪Motion to Form the FCE Applicant Scoring / Ranking Working Group
    Motion: Bud Gladstone
    Second: John Riedl
    **Motion Carried**

3. The 1st Quarter EP Dashboard was presented and discussed.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS
1. Draft FY20 EP Work Plan
   Ryan asked Committee to review the work plan that was handed out before today’s
   meeting. If approved, it will be forwarded to Council in June.
   ✪Motion to approve the FY20 EP Work Plan
   Motion: Duncan Schmitt
   Second: Dave Cammer
   **Motion Carried**

2. Education Opportunities:
   5/07 – How to Take the Next Step in your Career
   5/09 – Making the Workplace Fair and Inclusive
   5/15 – Keeping Your Financial House in Order
   We did purchase the All Access pass this year – registration is per webinar.

VI. STEWARDSHIP MOTIONS
1. Commercial Camping Waiver Extension Requests (60 day extensions are
   valid until 6/5/19)
   Discussion: Rob advised that teleconferences with DEP since the April meeting
   have been productive. He has sent the latest draft to DEP with WAC comments and
   comments from our attorney. DEP will review with their attorney. Attorneys need
   to determine the private benefit issue. Fred asked for a more detailed explanation of
   public / private benefit. Rob said findings from the attorneys’ discussion will be
   presented next month; Committee members expressed hope that this information will
be available to include in the packet for next month’s meeting. Bud said if DEP isn’t prepared to approve the guidelines next month, he hopes they will approve the waiver extension requests until the end of the year as presented. Rob said Mike (WAC’s attorney) is ready to discuss and asked Duncan to get with Lisa (DEP’s attorney) to schedule a phone conference. Duncan replied that he’s hopeful Lisa and Mike will be able to form a decision on how to move forward after their phone conference. If they at least “bless” the guidelines by the June meeting we can always determine private benefit at the next meeting. Ryan again reminded Committee that waivers can always be revoked/withdrawn. Tom H. asked if there have been any additional requests for waivers and Rob replied that we have at least one that will likely be added to the June agenda. Since there is no meeting in July, June needs to be the decision month. Sally asked for clarity regarding what needs to be presented next month to have the motions/extensions approved and repeated, again, that waivers can be revoked at any time.

2. The County of Putnam (PID #6600) – Waiver Request
   - Motion to approve the County of Putnam (PID #6600) request for waiver dated April 15, 2019, as described in staff memo dated April 16, 2019 and as detailed by the plans submitted by Putnam County Staff.
   - Ryan proposed that voting be held after the discussion in Executive session on a related matter.

VII. STEWARDSHIP UPDATES (Ryan and Rob)
   1. Amendment Guideline – we have one in place and are working to finalize proposed edits.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   - Motion to go into Executive Session at 10:39 am to discuss Project Acquisition Motions, Acquisition Updates, Violations/Pending Litigation, and Personnel/Other Business.
   - Motion: Fred Huneke
   - Second: Bud Gladstone
   - **Motion Carried**

IX. VIOLATIONS / LEGAL UPDATES
    1. PID #6600 – Update / Next Steps

X. ACQUISITION PROGRAM MOTIONS

Ag Conservation Easements
   1. None

Forest CE:
2. PID #6265 – Approval of Final Documents
   ◆ Motion to approve final easement, BDR, title insurance, survey, and ESA for PID #6265 conservation easement project.
   Motion: Bud Gladstone
   Second: John Verhoeven
   **Motion Carried**

XI. DISCUSSION / OTHER BUSINESS – In Executive Session
1. Contract Negotiations Status Update (Craig Cashman)

2. ◆ Motion to table the waiver request from the County of Putnam dated April 15, 2019.
   Motion: Fred Huneke
   Second: Duncan Schmitt
   **Motion Carried**

XII. Meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

Next meeting dates:
- Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 10:00 am in the Downstairs Conference Room at the WAC Office, Walton, NY.