

Moreau Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mary Meade, at 6:38pm. Present were members Reed Antis, Ramona Bearor, Tom Kurtz, and Pat Walters. Councilwoman Gina LeClair also attended.

Mary Meade informed the committee that the proposal for the Moreau Industrial Park Conservation Easement lands—presented at the June 23rd meeting—was well received by the Town Board members. The Council agreed to having a Request For Proposal (RFP) prepared, and to that end, Gina LeClair will meet with Town Attorney, Martin Auffredou, on July 9 to prepare an RFP for submission to Chazen, the LA Group, Behan, etc., and other engineering groups. After the town receives proposals, one firm will be chosen and the project can move ahead. Gina LeClair also explained that Assessor Peggy Jenkins is trying to determine the true owner of the easement lands—some records indicate New York State, and some say Niagara Mohawk, now National Grid. Mary reminded us that the deadline for one possible grant for this project has a deadline of September 30, 2009.

Gina LeClair proposed a project that would involve applying for a New York State Council on the Arts grant. These grants are administered locally through Saratoga Arts, and the program is known as the Saratoga Program for Arts Funding, or SPAF grants. Our project would involve enlisting a professional photographer (who must be a resident of Saratoga County) to work with the community in some way to make photographs that illustrate the beauty and history of our town. Several options were discussed, including having the photographer work with children and their parents, work with MCAC members, etc. Suggested areas for photos were also discussed, as were ideas for a slogan for the project. The committee decided to pursue this grant, and Gina will file a letter of intent to the grant committee. The deadline for SPAF applications is September 30, 2009.

Mary Meade led a discussion on the sad appearance of the entrance corridors to our town. All agreed that traveling north on RT9 from I-87 Exit 17 does not give a good impression, nor does the route in across the Fenimore bridge. Ways to improve these areas were discussed, as was the possibility of a future project.

Various grants were discussed and the best ways to take advantage of them. It was thought that it would be helpful to have a master list of grants available, with information as to what they would fund, the funding levels, deadline to apply for annual grants, etc. Having this information readily available would make funding future projects simpler. Mary suggested that all members should investigate grants of all kinds that might be available for our type of projects and bring that information to the next meeting.

Tom Kurtz suggested we decide on a long-term project that will engage us while other smaller projects are in the waiting stages. He suggested a bikeway that would connect our town to other surrounding communities. Discussion followed about funding available, possible connecting routes to neighboring towns, the popularity of biking as a family activity and healthy exercise. Although we have had discussion on this idea at past meetings, several members of the MCAC were not present so it was decided to pursue this at the next meeting. It was suggested that all members could collect information on trails and bikeways and bring to the next meeting.

Gina LeClair requested that committee members give thought to the SPAF grant proposal – how to implement the project, a “catchy” slogan, etc. and bring ideas to the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 6:30pm in the Moreau Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ramona Bearor, secretary
Moreau Conservation Advisory Council