

Minutes for the Open Space Committee

May 11, 2021

Call to order at 6:55pm.

Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Chairman— Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Hunterdon County Democrat and was posted on the bulletin board at Town Hall according to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act. A copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

Roll call: Cronce, Fisher, Urbanski, Bergenfeld (TC liaison). All present.

Minutes from March 9, 2021 were approved.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Business:

Hunting Program – Deer hunting surveys were sent to the hunting clubs on March 18th. All surveys have been received. Decision to accept surveys and not penalize any for not meeting the harvest requirement. Next step is to contact the club contact person with the updated permit fees and request payment and a list of current members.

Website – Open Space page looks great. Cathy reviewed the information and current map.

Trails – Public access easements on preserved property was discussed. Discussion by township attorney Katrina Campbell at the 4/21 Committee meeting. Further information sent to her. Waiting to hear her recommendations, though she has said that the township will not be held liable for any costs incurred for any easement access and has no obligation to provide said access.

FPP Plan – Joanna Slagle will continue working on our plan.

Open Space Map – Cathy has updated the map, incorporating information from Katrina delineating the 30 acres green acres parcel. It was noted that we have preserved approximately 43% of the township

Farmland Preservation Projects – Still pending - Hoyer. Waiting for appraisals from the County.

Signage- At the request of DPW Rollero and Chairman Cronce, Cathy designed and had signs made for posting on municipal property. This was to address dumping and dog waste/leashing problems. Signs were placed on all municipal properties on 4-16-21. Note: there was a complaint from a Lambertville resident bordering Calton/Music Mountain where a sign was placed. Said resident felt that they were being “picked on”. DPW Rollero informed the resident that signage was placed on all township owned properties. Problem solved.

Alexauken Creek Invasive Removal - Joint PSE&G and Rutgers proposal to remove invasives (spray) along their right of way along the Alexauken and replant with native species. This was discussed at the 5/5 Township Committee meeting and the Committee gave their approval for the project.

Resident request for bagworm control – Music Mountain resident request that the township address bagworms on pine trees on a township owned parcel in the development. Discussion and decision to wait and if the trees are dead in the future, to remove them and possibly replant.

Millings on preserved property on Rt. 179 – The current “owner” was not aware of the language in the deed. Chairman Cronic spoke with him and informed him that any development/buildings/millings needed approval of the Planning Board. No further action is to be taken till approval is granted and surveys, delineation of the exception area are completed.

Open Space Trust Funds – Chairman Cronic questioned Steve as to using some of the funds for the building at Hewitt Park as it is in need of much repair.

Fulper farming problem – Fulper has driven over the septic system and box behind the municipal building with his farm machinery. Discussion as to provide another route for access and egress to his fields.

Easement monitoring – deferred for now.

Open Space goals for 2021 – “Keep the township green”.

Opportunity for Public Comment- no members of the public were present

Next Meeting Date – July 13, 2021

Adjournment at 7:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski