

Minutes for the Open Space Committee

March 10, 2020

Call to order: Chairman Cronce called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Open Public Meetings Statement – 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:

Present - Cronce, Fisher, Malek, Shute, Urbanski

Absent - Bergenfeld (TC liaison).

Approval of minutes: January 14, 2020. Approved with corrections.

Opportunity for Public Comment – no members of the public were present.

Business

Hunting Program – Dan reported that the hunting surveys were mailed the week of February 10th and need to be returned by March 31.

Website – Up to date as per Cathy.

2020 Open Space Budget - Hal update: The OS tax levy will produce \$326,000 this year. Of that. \$208,000 will be allocated for debt service, \$25,000 for mowing and maintenance of open space, \$6,500 for a new mower, and \$4,000 for the Farmland Preservation Plan update. There would be \$80,000+ left in the trust fund for preservation and other maintenance/trail activities. This has been approved by T. Carro.

Green Acres – As per the Green Acres letter to the Township, dated 11-27-19, the following and all of their recommendations for compliance have been completed:

Project 1026- 13 -149, Hewitt Park – grass/mulch/fence issues have been addressed.

Project 1026-00-007-25, Steifel – signage has been placed on the public access portion of the easement.

The “Estates” dumped branches, trees, and vegetative waste has been addressed.

It was noted that - The Hunterdon CADB is now accepting applications for farmland preservation. The deadline is April 9, 2020.

Farmland Preservation Plan – Cathy had met with Joanna Slagle, and both requested that Clerk Andrews contact the SADC for a grant agreement. Members discussed this and what we must provide for Slagle, starting with revision of the 2010 future farmland preservation program. Members reviewed the 2010 version. Cathy will make updates and present this at our next meeting. Cathy will follow up with Clerk Andrews as per the grant agreement

Farmland Preservation Projects – possible acquisitions: Barry Runkle and Gary Hoyer – both projects waiting for Hunterdon County contracts/option agreements. Decision to send timely letter to Runkle, Hal will draft as needed.

Easement monitoring – deferred till fall 2020.

Opportunity for Public Comment – No members of the public were present

Adjournment – 7:46 pm. Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski