

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present for this meeting were the following Committee members: John Cronce, George Fisher, Dan Malek Hal Shute, and Cathy Urbanski. Christine Rosikiewicz, Committee Secretary, was present. Chris Kamnitsis and Rich Schaible were absent. Stephen Bergenfeld, Township Committee Liaison, was also present.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

There was no public present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2017.**

Ms. Urbanski made a motion to approve. Mr. Shute seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Fisher.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Farmland Preservation Projects:

Holcombe III: Mr. Shute reported that the title needs to be cleared. Mr. Cronce recommended to the applicant that they contact their attorney. There is nothing the Committee can do at this point, this property is “good to go” except for the title which only the owner can clear.

Runkle: Mr. Cronce conferred with Mr. Shute and signed the voucher for the appraisals to be paid. The appraisals are now with the state. The Committee discussed the appraisals.

Other:

Hunting Program: Counts are in from the clubs. Mr. Cronce was asked by a resident if they can fish in Alexauken Creek, the creek is stocked and a hunting club rents the property. Fishing is permitted with a license. Mr. Malek will report on the deer counts at the next meeting.

Website: Ms. Urbanski reported that the website is up to date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Request for Shooting Range on Municipal Property: Mr. Cronce was asked by the Mayor if the municipal building land could be used for a shooting range for the police force to use to qualify. They have to qualify four times a year and there are ten officers on the force. Having a Township shooting range would save money as the officers now have to travel to the County range to qualify. Mr. Cronce cited numerous issues with using Township land including safety concerns and regulations against disturbing the soil, he discussed this with the Mayor. The Committee discussed properties in the Township and it was determined there was no suitable Township property. Using private property would pose a liability.

Open Space Maintenance Plan: Ms. Urbanski explained that a maintenance plan is needed if Open Space funds are going to be used to maintain preserved land. She has drafted a plan and provided the Committee with copies of it. She read the plan out loud to the Committee and members provided feedback and changes to it. There are 5828 acres of preserved land in the Township.

There are easements that still need to be monitored. Ms. Urbanski will incorporate the changes into the plan and send it to the Committee members for their review.

Mr. Shute commented how a property deed does not indicate if a property has a conservation easement or is a preserved property. After discussion possible issues the Committee determined that the Zoning and Construction departments should have a list of these properties. Whether a property has a conservation easement or is preserved will come up in a search but if a property is purchased with cash a search is not done. Mr. Shute will inform Township Committee about the list at their next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

3/24/17 letter from CADB re: Distribution of Agendas and Minutes: Mr. Shute shared that the CADB are only distributing agendas and minutes electronically going forward. Ms. Rosikiewicz will sign up on the distribution list and forward the agendas and minutes to the Chair and Vice-Chair when received.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

There was no public present.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on June 13th.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Cronic made a motion, seconded by Ms. Urbanski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. All were in favor; the motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine A. Rosikiewicz, Open Space Secretary