

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for this meeting were the following Committee members: John Cronce, George Fisher, and Hal Shute. Christine Rosikiewicz, Committee Secretary, was present. Chris Kamnitsis, Dan Malek, Rich Schaible, and Cathy Urbanski were absent. Stephen Bergenfeld, Township Committee Liaison, arrived at 7:30pm.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

This item was moved on the agenda to be after New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 13, 2017

Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes with one edit: Under “Runkle’s Farm”, 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence remove the words “piece of property on this”. Mr. Shute seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmland Preservation Projects:

Runkle’s Farm: Mr. Shute provided the Committee with an update on the appraisals noting the appraisals were far apart and it was a tough property to appraise. Mr. Shute brought the offer of \$6500 an acre for the larger farm to Mr. Runkle. This initial offer was too low and a higher offer of \$7250 was made as it was the best the Township could do. Mr. Shute spoke to the County who will contribute 20%. The Committee discussed Township funds and paying for this property with funds from the OS trust. Final approval is needed from Township Committee, CADB, County Freeholders, and SADC.

Hunting Program: An extension was given for clubs to file their paperwork as it was mailed out late.

Website: Ms. Rosikiewicz reported that the website is fine.

NEW BUSINESS

Danberry & Meiers: Mr. Shute reported that Stephanie Miller told him Mr. Danberry and Mr. Meiers are interested in Farmland Preservation. Ms. Miller will meet with the property owners and put together an application for a direct acquisition by the state.

The Danberry property is 130 acres and partly cleared. It had previously been on the Committee’s preservation list. The Meier property is 68 acres.

Mr. Shute advised that the Committee need not do anything if the state is preserving the properties.

Possible Donation of Property – Schneer B 12 L 50:

Tracy Nixon Rodgers approached the Committee. Her father, Gary Scheer, is the property owner of B 12 L 50 at 205 Mt. Airy-Harbourtown Rd. Ms. Rodgers, on behalf of her father, would like to donate this property to the Township. The Committee discussed the property which has designated wetlands as noted on the tax bill. Mr. Scheer’s brother-in-law is a fifty percent owner on the