

Minutes for the Open Space Committee November 10, 2020, 7 pm.

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

The Chairman read the 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, Urbanski.

Absent – Malek (excused), Bergenfeld (TC liaison).

Approval of minutes: September 8, 2020 – Approved with no corrections.

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

It was noted that Hal Shute has resigned as an OS member. He is moving out of the township. Members spoke about his magnificent contributions and that he will be sorely missed. George Fisher was nominated for Vice Chair, and he accepted. All were in favor.

The Township has approved the increase the hunting fees. Dan had said via email that he had no updates on the program.

West Amwell's new website is still in progress. Cathy will work on the OS content for the site and keep it up to date.

Farmland Preservation Plan and PIG new rules – Cathy had contacted Betty Jane Hunt, Chair of the AAC with the new rules and the AAC discussed this at their September meeting. The AAC will be able to review the FPP when it is available. Also, BJ asked for the file on Farm Products for Sale and it was sent to her: the AAC wishes to further expand on this.

Meeting Dates for 2021 – Agreement that the OS should meet e/o month, beginning in January 2021. Meetings will be cancelled if there is no urgent business.

Farmland Preservation Projects – Discussion that the Barry Runkle project may be on hold for a long while. Hoyer project is through the county and we have no updates.

Discussion on easement monitoring – deferred.

Open to members for further discussion –

John noted that the WAT signs were paid for and have been placed on the hillside of Music Mountain. He wishes to repost part of Alexauken Creek Road and part of Barry Road.

John questioned power company tree cutting on the easement along the Alexauken, near Hamp Road, in the designated hunting parcel. The trees were cut to the ground, with the logs lying everywhere. There seems to be “outside” interest in the logs. Because it is hunting season, it would be inappropriate to allow their removal at this time. And there could be an insurance issue if permission were given for their removal after the hunting season. Decision to avoid an issue and leave the logs to decay naturally.

John also expressed concern for the millings being placed on the long preserved Runkle property on the south side of route 179. The township had preserved this property. The property has a floating exception area and it appears that the millings are being used for a base for a building. John contacted Gail at the construction office and so far, there have not been any applications locating said building site. Gail will follow through with checking for the necessary permits and will alert the OS when they are received. Concern was raised as to the proximity of the millings to the Alexauken Creek.

John also mentioned that he would like to continue with the monthly CADB meetings, at least 3X/year.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Adjournment – 7:35 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski