

Minutes for the Open Space Committee

September 14, 2021

Call to order at 6:59pm.

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: Cronic, Fisher, Urbanski, Bergenfeld (TC liaison). All present.

Minutes from May 11, 2021 were approved.

No members of the public were present for comment.

Business:

Block 32, Lot 7.04 – Request by the party buying the property from Brian Zecher to move the exception area to the top of the knoll. The township attorney had reviewed the change and approved it. The Open Space Committee reviewed the change and gave their approval. This then will be brought to the attention of the TC at their next meeting and will await their resolution.

Hunting Program – Completed for 2021-2022. Cathy placed a thumb drive in our OS file with all of the necessary information.

The Titus hunting parcel was severely compromised by hurricane Ida, with the Hamp Road bridge being destroyed. The County has no plans to replace it. Chairman Cronic spoke with the holders of the parcel. They will wait to see if the situation improves for them to access the parcel, maybe approach from Delaware Twp. They requested a semi wild designation for the parcel – for pheasants. The committee approved this, with an increase in fees for the property.

Website – Open Space page is up to date. Cathy reviewed the information.

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

Open Space Map – Chairman Cronic questioned the easements (blue) as Township Owned, especially in the Orleans development. Cathy offered that they are really privately owned easements and will correct the wording on the Open Space Map.

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

Millings on preserved property on Rt. 179 – The current “owner” is now aware of the language in the deed: surveys, delineation of the exception area, etc.

Open Space Trust Funds – Since the Fund provides for maintenance of preserved lands, Chairman Cronic proposed using said funds for repairs to streams damaged by hurricane Ida. Parcels affected are on the following roads: Hunter, Wilson, LakeView, Mill, Alexauken Creek, and Rock Road East. The cleanup would mostly involve removal of debris from the streambeds and also clearing of pipes. Rental of two types of machines were

discussed. Steve offered that the trust fund could be reimbursed 75% from FEMA. Decision also to use some funds to repair/place siding on the building at Hewitt Park.

Easement monitoring – deferred for now.

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

Next Meeting Date – November 9, 2021

Adjournment at 8:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski