

## **Minutes for the Open Space Committee May 14, 2019**

The meeting commenced at 7:04 pm.

**Call to order** Vice-Chair Shute ran the meeting.

**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:** Fisher, Malek, Shute, Urbanski, Bergenfeld (TC liaison).

Cronce – excused.

Members expressed great sadness at the recent passing of Rick Schaible.

**Approval of minutes:** January 8, 2019 – approved.

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

### **Business**

**Updated 2019-2020 Hunting Regulations** – Dan. Much discussion with the members: Hunting regulations – ATV users would need to provide proof of insurance and the OS Committee would need to have a list of ATV's being used, with owner information, VIN #'s, make and models, etc. Other changes to the regulations were suggested, to be incorporated in the final regulations, mostly about the ATV use. Cathy and Dan will send a final copy to the OS members for review before sending it to the Clerk and the hunting clubs. Dan also provided the 2018-2019 Deer Harvest Report. All of the parcels met or exceeded their harvest quota.

**Open Space Map** – Produced by Joanna Slagle, Banisch. Members commented favorably on it and reviewed the map for further properties to be preserved. It was asked that the DPW remove the old map in the main meeting room and replace it with the newest version.

**County Municipal Grant** – Denied – Hal and Cathy had seriously petitioned Bill Millette and the County, with help from Zach Rich, but to no avail. We have \$46,000 in their “bank” and can use it for future projects. It was noted that nowhere in the County regulations was this ever mentioned.

**Joint meeting AAC/OS** – Held on April 4, 2019 was discussed. The County wishes to preserve smaller parcels. Members felt that this would not be fair to the taxpayers and held to our 20 acre minimum standard for preservation. Minutes/notes from the meeting to be sent to all members, and will not be posted on the website for landowner privacy reasons, but will be filed at the municipal building.

**Emerald Ash borer** – Discussion as to the problems with the emerald ash borer on dead and dying ash trees in the township easements. Of concern are homes which could be impacted by a fallen tree. Hal noted that there is \$50,000 in the budget for open space maintenance.

**Open to members for discussion** - Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ) as a possible tool for the future.

**Project Updates** – Hal provided the following:

Barry Runkle, approximately 17 acres, being held up because of bank loan on property.

Fulper – approximately 40 acres, south parcel of GDP, denied by Green Acres because of its being preserved as part of the GDP.

**Opportunity for Public Comment** – none.

**Next Meeting Date** – July 9, 2019

**Adjournment** – 8:12 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski