

Minutes for the Open Space Committee

November 12, 2019

Call to order

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

Approval of minutes: September 10, 2019. Approved with minor corrections.

Opportunity for Public Comment – Gary Hoyer was in attendance, see below.

Business

Active and potential projects:

Barry Runkle – No change, county asked if we would try to recover our costs for appraisals and survey. We never have so why would we now? Consensus, County needs to enforce their own contract or wait 4 years until the payment covers the debt on the property

Hoyer – Gary has applied to the County program. Members reviewed a project map of the 50 acre property which shows a 2.5 acre exception around the residence and another 7.6 acre severable exception in the rear of the property. This allows the property to qualify with 54% tillable acres.

NJ Barn Co. – Members looked at an aerial view of the property and discussed options. The property does not fit into any Township preservation programs and the owner should pursue other options.

Hunting Program – Some discussion of the decision made at the September meeting to offer 5-year extensions of the current leases but no change.

Website – Up to date.

Open Space Map – Will be hung as soon as the room is painted

Farmland Preservation Plan – Expires 10/2020.

Cathy has been in contact with Linda Weber – she cannot do the update.

Cathy has contacted Joanna Slagle and she can do it. They both will meet soon to discuss.

The Planning Board is budgeting for this in case the grant is not available.

Easement monitoring – possible easement violations. No one knew anything about violations. This subject tabled until spring.

PIG application due Monday, December 16 – letter from SADC. Needs to be done ASAP. Hal will take care of this.

2020 OS Budget Request – Hal submitted a draft which would allow about \$97,000 to be retained in the OS Trust . Discussion centered on the \$25,000 for OS maintenance vs \$50,000 in the 2019 budget. Hal will get the number from Sandy as to actual costs submitted by Ryan for 2019. Steve contends that is not enough and will hurt the general budget. No decision made.

Open to members for further discussion – It was noted that Mr. Birmingham has declined to be a member of the OS Committee.

Opportunity for Public Comment - none.

Next Meeting Date – January 14, 2020

Adjournment

Minutes prepared by Hal Shute and Cathy Urbanski