

## West Amwell Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes, May 8, 2018

### Call to order:

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:59 pm.

Members present: John Cronce, George Fisher, Dan Malek, Rich Schaible, Hal Shute, Cathy Urbanski, Stephen Bergenfeld, Township Committee Liaison.

### Open to the public:

Tom Ogren presented himself before the Committee as a Goat Hill historian, who wanted to detail the timeline of the property as per the quarry, boy scouts, and its history. Tom was concerned that there was no maintenance by the state or township on the property. Road potholes and no trails were his concerns. He wished to try to have the property incorporated into the Hunterdon County park system. He had spoken with Bill Millette about this. It was recommended that he speak with Neal Ferrari, superintendent for Washington Crossing State park, which has jurisdiction over this property. Tom provided the OS members with booklets that he had written about Goat Hill which were funded by the Sourland Conservancy.

**Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2108** – Approved with corrections by Hal.

### Old Business

**Runkle Farm Update:** Still pending. Bruce has concerns as to the tax liability and may want to wait till August 2018 to avoid serious short term capital gains tax. There was also concern about the land locked parcel on his property. Members agreed that this was not a problem at this time.

**Fulper GDP Property:** Members discussed the preservation of the GDP parcels. Hal and Steve had met with Rob Fulper and Hal had met with Stephanie Miller (SADC) to discuss options for preservation. While the Fulper family wishes to pursue preservation of the properties, there is a concern that the appraisals will not be high enough due to SADC Appraisal guidelines. Members discussed the fact that a site plan with wells, suitable septic, roads, etc. would be needed prior to any appraisals that would consider a number of potential approved lots.

The wooded parcel, 24 acres, on the south side of the GDP was discussed and members were unified in the preservation of the parcel, as it would be a “greenway” link between the preserved parcels of the United Water Co. and Rutgers.

**Hunting Program:** John provided an update and Dan agreed with his assessment.

**Website:** Cathy reported that everything is up to date.

**Easements:** To be monitored soon, as per Chairman Cronce.

## New Business

**ADA Review by the County:** Hal reported that the County has reviewed the ADA and had made some changes: They have removed the Sourland properties and have added some parcels in the southern part of the township. He did not see a problem with this, but will give an update at the next meeting.

**Open Space Trust Funds:** Hal spoke that as per the Financial Committee and conversations with the CFO, that after preserving the Runkle property, that the funds would be seriously depleted. WAT is taking \$50,000/ year for maintenance which we felt was excessive.

**Hamp Road Complaint:** John reported that he dealt with a complaint from a resident in Delaware Twp. bordering on the Titus Property. The complaint was such: Hunters on the Titus property adjacent to Hamp Road had their hunting stands facing her property (stands not from WAT). John called Mike A. and requested that their hunters not hunt on the property line and remove those stands. And hunt the middle of the parcel, as to have a buffer, just in case.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski