

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

The reorganization meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for this meeting were the following Committee members: John Cronce, George Fisher, Dan Malek, Hal Shute, and Cathy Urbanski. Christine Rosikiewicz, Committee Secretary, and Stephen Bergenfield, Township Committee Liaison, were also present. Rich Schaible was absent.

REORGANIZATION

Ms. Rosikiewicz opened the floor for nominations of Committee Chair. **Ms. Urbanski nominated John Cronce for Open Space Advisory Committee Chair. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

Mr. Cronce nominated Hal Shute for Vice Chair. Mr. Fisher seconded the nomination. All were in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. Cronce announced that the Open Space Advisory Committee will meet every other month. If a special meeting it necessary it will be publicized on the website.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was no public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2017 AND OCTOBER 10, 2017

Mr. Shute made a motion to approve the August 8, 2017 minutes as presented. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed with Mr. Malek and Ms. Urbanski abstaining.

Ms. Urbanski made a motion to approve the October 10, 2017 minutes with one edit as follows:

Under “Website” on page one replace “Ms. Urbanski updated the Open Space map” with “Ms. Urbanski is going to update the Open Space map”.

Mr. Malek seconded the motion. All were in favor with Mr. Fisher and Mr. Shute abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmland Preservation Projects:

Runkle: Mr. Shute reported that he is awaiting the surveys, they should be in by the end of the week. A funding ordinance will be introduced at the next Township Committee meeting.

Fulper: Mr. Shute reported that Mr. Fulper is ready to move forward on preservation of two farms on the south side. The Committee discussed the cost of funding this project. The Committee reviewed maps that Mr. Shute provided and the property was discussed. Mr. Fulper does not want to preserve the north side of the property. This item was tabled until March. Mr. Shute will talk to Mr. Fulper.

Hunting Program: Mr. Cronce reported an issue with the Wooden property. While working on a neighboring property he witnessed horseback riding on the Wooden property during deer season (shot gun). He advised the owner of the horse farm that they cannot ride on that property per ordinance as it is dangerous. The property owner said they have permission from D&R Greenway to ride on the property. Committee members expressed concerns over a rider getting hurt. It was noted that there are signs posted stating “no horseback riding”. D&R

Greenway is managing the property, the hunters are paying West Amwell Township to hunt. Mr. Cronce will seek advisement from the Open Space attorney.

Website: Ms. Urbanski will add the 2018 meeting dates and update the Committee membership.

Easements: Mr. Cronce said he and Mr. Malek will review the easements in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Membership: Mr. Cronce reviewed the by-laws; Ms. Urbanski will work on changes to the by-laws. Mr. Cronce asked the Committee if the Board should reduce its membership.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments on any correspondence.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from any public.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Urbanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fisher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Rosikiewicz, Open Space Secretary