

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Hal Shute, Committee Vice-Chair.

Present for this meeting were the following Committee members: Ernie Andreoli, Marla Ashton, George Fisher (Township Committee Liaison), Lauren Hills, Judith O'Brien, Hal Shute (Vice Chair), Alison Sommers-Sayre, Cathy Urbanski and Christine Rosikiewicz (Committee Secretary). John Cronce, Committee Chair, was absent.

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There were no comments from any public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 14, 2013: Ms. Urbanski made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments; Ms. Ashton seconded it. Motion was approved by roll call vote with all in favor and Mr. Andreoli, Ms. Hills, Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Sommers-Sayre abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

Green Acres Projects

Wooden North: Mr. Shute reported that the survey and environmental study should be done or close to being completed. He provided copies of the final funding breakdown to the Committee and went over it. The purchase price is \$425,000; it is a 50/50 cost match with Green Acres. There is an \$85,000 County grant each to D&R and Hunterdon Land Trust. There should be minimal legal costs; the closing should be in July. The property is 43 acres and will be kept in farming with some hiking and possible public access. The title will be shared 62% West Amwell and 38% D&R Greenway.

Halper: Preservation of this property is moving forward.

Former United Water Company: Possible names for this property were briefly discussed. There was a consensus that the name should indicate that the property is in the Western reach of the Sourlands.

Farmland Preservation Projects

Toll North: Awaiting final option agreement to be signed.

Wooden South: Mr. Shute reported that Mr. Cronce was reaching out to Bruce Wooden.

Coleman Farm/Toll South: Mr. Fisher reported that the property can be sold through a realtor; he has a call in to discuss this and move forward.

Lambert Farm: Mr. Shute reported that the property owner is proceeding with the application and commented favorably on the project. The property is 57 acres. A variance by the Board of Adjustment will be needed to operate a custom stonecutting business on the property; an existing building will be used for this. Mr. Shute will walk the property and invited the committee members to join him.

Fozman: There was nothing new to report on this property.

Jingoli: There was no update.

Other

State Funding: Mr. Shute reported that there is less State funding each year.

County Grant: Ms. O'Brien has a copy of the grant application and will work on it next week. Mr. Shute offered to assist her.

Trails: There was nothing new to report.

Review of Website: This item will be removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Easement Monitoring: Ms. Urbanski reported that a grant from Sustainable Jersey for ten thousand dollars is being utilized to fund this project. Five thousand dollars has been received thus far. Mr. Banisch is creating a map depicting the easements. Letters were sent to residents with easements on their property to explain the monitoring project. Mr. Cronic has been photographing easements on Saturdays and meeting with Ms. Urbanski on Fridays to work on the project. Ms. Urbanski will provide the interim report in July to receive the second five thousand dollars. The dilemma of enforcing and monitoring the easements in the future was mentioned along with the possibility of an ordinance to give the Zoning Officer the power to enforce easement requirements. Ms. Urbanski has provided the attorney with language for the ordinance. April is the deadline for completing the project.

Annual Hearing for Open Space Trust Fund Expenditures: Mr. Shute provided copies to the Committee of what was turned in this year noting that the Open Space budget is now in balance with about \$280,000 in debt service payments and the same in income from the Open Space tax.

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Mr. Sean Pfeiffer noted (regarding the easement project) that the Clerk should have a map with metes and bounds.

Mr. Pfeiffer commented that the 62/38% share of the Wooden North property raises a liability insurance question and asked if D&R would put the property on their policy and pay 38% of any work on the property.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The July meeting will be canceled; the next Open Space Committee meeting will be in August.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Urbanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Andreoli, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11p.m. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Rosikiewicz
Open Space Secretary