

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES- JANUARY 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cronce at 7:35.

Role Call

Members present: Laurel, Alison, John, Kyle, Hal, and George (Township Committee Liaison) in attendance.

Excused: Judy, Ernie, Marla

Others present: Sean Pfeiffer, Linda Weber

Approval of Minutes

January 10 minutes not available

Public Comment

George introduced Linda Weber who he had approached about assisting the committee. Ms. Weber is a professional planner in New Jersey and West Amwell resident. She recently prepared the Farmland Preservation Element of the Master Plan for the Planning Board.

Green Acres Projects

Foran: John reported that 2 quotes are for appraisals on the Foran project. After some discussion, low bidder Tom Rodriguez was selected by voice vote.

Green Acres Designated Contact: Laurel volunteered to be the contact to Green Acres going forward.

Farm Preservation Projects

Toll North: Discussion of the Rt. 179 frontage which is zoned highway commercial and whether this area should be part of the preservation project was initiated by Hal. The idea was previously at the Finance Committee and Planning Board with both of those bodies indicating that the possibility should be explored further. After considerable discussion the Open Space Committee opposes the idea by consensus. Hal will follow through with the CADB to see if the possibility exists to change the application at this point and report back.

Nunn Property: Application ready to submit to the SADC for "Green Light" approval.

Designated SADC Contact: Hal volunteered to be the contact to SADC going forward.

Open Space Task List

Hal distributed a list of discrete tasks pertaining to preservation projects and the need to divide the work load more evenly was discussed. John reviewed the list and asked for volunteers for each. John stated an interest in trails and easement monitoring and Hal said he also had an interest there.

The need to update the tax Map, ROSI and Open Space Map was discussed and George, Hal and Marla (in absentia) volunteered.

Open Space Trust

The problem of the Open Space trust having a negative cash flow was discussed. Hal described the causes of the Trust assuming some of the Calton debt service in conjunction with the township wide reassessment reducing the open space tax revenue. Unless adjustments are made the Trust Fund could be depleted in around 10 years.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Cronce at 9:06