

Open Space Advisory Committee – February 14, 2012

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7.37 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Hills, Andreoli, Croce, O'Brien, Shute, Sommers-Sayre, Kilmer

Absent: Ashton

Late Arrival: Fisher (Township Committee Liaison)

Opportunity for Public Comment

Sean Pfeiffer was present.

Subcommittee Appointments

By-laws Subcommittee

Easement Monitoring Subcommittee – Cronic, Andreoli, Shute

GIS Mapping Subcommittee

Liaison Contacts:

Non profit contact – Sommers-Sayre

Green Acres contacts – Hills, Shute to contribute

SADC contact – Hills

By-laws: All committee members provided with copy of Open Space by-laws.

Budget Shute explained a proposal from the Finance group for the refinancing of long term bonds. Two issues are outstanding: 2003 for about \$4 million re: Caltron settlement with a balance @ \$2.3 million in 2013 which issue matures in 2023 and @ \$3 million in Open Space which can be refinanced in 2016. Only one issue is eligible to refinance but possible saving of \$150,000 from current low interest rates. There was further discussion of amounts from Open Space and the Township budgets. Sommers-Sayre pointed out open space tax assumes no provision for debt service replacement. Croce queried what the Finance Committee recommendation was. Shute responded the numbers were calculated. It is not known what impact the township reassessment would have on the open space tax proceeds.

Green Acres

Bowers (Block 28 Lot 26) 21.5 acres Goat Hill Road. Cronic has appraisal. He will notify Township Clerk to proceed. Pfeiffer observed that someone needed to contact Green Acres with deadline tomorrow. Any application is not contractually binding.

Wooden Lane Farm just before Howell Farm. Agreement to add to Green Acre list. Shute and Hills will follow up.

Farmland Preservation

Shute and Fisher will attend the County Municipal Status meeting. Cronic may also attend.

Mountford Need the property in ADA (Agricultural Design Area.) contiguous to current ADA. Shute will check at the county meeting on this point.

Nunn Shute and Pfeiffer noted funding awarded in 2009. Had to wait for New Jersey to approve a farmland preservation plan (20%WA, 20% county, 60% NJ.) Cronce queried 20% local share and Pfeiffer confirmed. Project has been around for about 5 years. Project goes to SADC and then an appraisal is done. Pfeiffer noted the SADC wants towns to protect farms as businesses. Funding is available and the landowner is willing. It was agreed that certain committee members will walk the property and report the next meeting.

Toll South Possibility of another auction if agreement can be made to move the landscape trees on property. Committee agreed tree removal needs to conform to best agricultural practices.

Open Space Map Revisions Shute and Fisher spoke to County Planning Department. County is not updating the map. Cathy Urbanski has updated certain segments. Opinion is this issue needs to be solved at the Planning Board level.

County Grant O'Brien will contact Richardson at the County Planning Board.

Trails Fisher will see if Parks and Recreation Committee can assist in marking the trails..

Easement Monitoring

New Business: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Andreoli with a second by Sommers-Sayre.

Next Meeting March 13, 2012