

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:37 p.m. Present for this meeting were the following Board members: Open Space Chair John Cronce, Mayor George Fisher (Township Committee Liaison), Hal Shute, Laurel Hills, Judith O'Brien and Christine Rosikiewicz (Board Secretary). Alison Sommers-Sayer, Kyle Kilmer (Vice Chair), Ernie Andreoli, and Marla Ashton were absent.

**PRESENTATION BY CATHY URBANSKI ON EASEMENT MONITORING GRANT FUNDING:** Cathy Urbanski, Chair, Environmental Commission provided the committee with copies of the Conservation Easement Stewardship Program Application/Proposal and a list of Township easements. Ms. Urbanski explained that the Environmental Commission applied to Sustainable Jersey for a grant to monitor conservation easements. She explained that the proposal was to set up a timeline and use the grant money to cover the cost of monitoring the easements. Different ways of monitoring the easements were discussed including hiring someone versus utilizing a volunteer. There are over ninety easements on the list; differentiating the easements and monitoring only certain types were considered. Ms. Urbanski composed the list utilizing the Township tax map and tax book. Agricultural easements will not be included as they are inspected by the County. Properties monitored by the DEP were also not included. The committee discussed what monitoring these properties constitutes. Ms. Urbanski explained that these easements must be in a natural state without gardens, sheds or buildings. Utilizing the grant for signage and education was suggested. C. Urbanski suggested a map of the easements be created. Ms. O'Brien commented on the need for an initial survey and inquired what the frequency of monitoring should be. Ms. Urbanski replied that it should at least be done once as it has not been done before. Determining which easements should be monitored was further discussed; it was determined wetland easements should be included. Sending letters to property owners with easements was suggested. Properties owned by the state, fee simple, or D&R and properties with agricultural easements will not be inspected as they are monitored by other entities. An interim report is due in nine months. A separate map of easements will be created. Ms. Urbanski asked for a member of the committee to work with her on this and provided Mr. Cronce with a CD with information including sample letters. Which easements to include on the map were discussed. Mr. Cronce will attend the Environmental Commission meeting; he thanked Ms. Urbanski.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 18, 2012: H. Shupe and J. O'Brien will listen to the tape of this meeting.

September 11, 2012 and October 9, 2012: **Mr. Shute made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September and October with one correction under the section for "Nunn" in the October 9, 2012 minutes. J. O'Brien seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.** Mr. Shute will present these minutes to Township Committee for the website.

April 2012 Meeting Minutes: H. Shute will provide the Committee with copies of these minutes and approval will be added to the agenda in December.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

There was no public present.

**GREEN ACRES PROJECTS:**

Bowers: Mr. Cronce sent a letter to Mr. Bowers on September 26<sup>th</sup>; there has been no response yet.

Foran: Mr. Cronce shared a letter from Mr. Forum expressing his regretful rejection of the offer of payment to be able to construct a trail on his property. Reasons cited included the amount of the offer, liability and eastern box turtles on the property.

Wooden North: Mr. Shute reported that this property has been recommended to the Freeholders but not approved at this time.

Halper: Ms. Hills sent an e-mail to Green Acres for status and is awaiting a response; she will follow up. The landowner for this property applied directly to Green Acres.

Adam Reimbursement: The Open Space Committee is awaiting a reimbursement from Green Acres. Mr. Shute will follow up with Green Acres to determine what needs to be done to receive the reimbursement.

ROSI Update: Mr. Shute reported that this is continuing.

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROJECTS:**

Toll North: The County is waiting on Toll Brothers. Mr. Cronce and Mr. Shute will attend the meeting with the County next Wednesday.

Nunn: Mr. Cronce reported that two appraisals are needed; Township Committee has given permission to hire appraisers. J. Cronce will contact the appraisers. An option agreement has been signed.

Mountford: Mr. Shute reported that the CADB will not fund preservation of this property. It was noted that it is not in the ADA (Agricultural Development Area) or contiguous to it. The Committee briefly discussed this property. Mr. Shute will contact Mr. Mountford.

Wooden South: This property is not in the ADA; it should be added to the ADA if the County allows. Other farms that could be added to the ADA were discussed.

Jingoli: Mr. Fisher reported that Mr. Jingoli is turning this property into an organic farm. He will be rebuilding the barns and putting up new fencing. This farm is 400 acres and in the ADA.

Fozman: Mr. Shute advised there was nothing new to report.

Coleman Farm: The trees on this property were discussed. The Township purchased this land at a discount and plans to sell it. Removing the trees from the property will make the property easier to sell. Mr. Cronce and Mr. Fisher will visit the property with the DPW and determine which trees should be removed.

Farmland PIG Revision: The deadline for this item has passed. The Committee briefly discussed funds for farm preservation and possible farms to add to PIG. It was noted that the ADA can only be expanded by the County.

**OTHER:**

County Grant: Ms. O'Brien will follow up on this item.

Adam Property Boundary Line Issue: Mr. Shute has the survey from D&R and the tax map; he will visit this property with Mr. Cronce.

Trails: Mr. Shute commented on trail damage from the hurricane.

New Business: There was no new business.

December Meeting: The December meeting will be on December 11, 2012.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hills, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53p.m. All were in favor; the motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine A. Rosikiewicz  
Open Space Secretary