

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:31 p.m. Present for this meeting were the following Board members: Open Space Chair John Cronce, Mayor George Fisher (Township Committee Liaison), Ernie Andreoli, Hal Shute, Laurel Hills, Alison Sommers-Sayer and Christine Rosikiewicz (Committee Secretary). Kyle Kilmer (Vice Chair), Marla Ashton, and Judith O'Brien were absent.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments from any public.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

November 13, 2012: Mr. Shute made a motion to approve the November 13, 2012 minutes with two typographical corrections; Ms. Hills seconded it. All were in favor with Mr. Andreoli, Mr. Kilmer, Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Sommers-Sayer abstaining. The motion passed.

January 18, 2012 and April 2012: Approval of the January 18, 2012 and April 2012 minutes was tabled until January.

**GREEN ACRES PROJECTS:**

Bowers: No report; this property should be taken off the agenda.

Wooden North: Mr. Shute reported that this property was approved by the Freeholders last month. D&R is proceeding with the appraisals. Ms. Sommers-Sayre reported that the grants from HLT and D&R were approved.

Halper: Ms. Hills reported that she will proceed with this property next year.

Adam Reimbursement: Ms. Hills will call to follow up on this reimbursement.

ROSI Update: Mr. Cronce reported that the ROSI update has been completed; this item will be taken off the agenda. Mr. Cronce expressed thanks to Ms. Hills for her work and time on this item. Ms. Hills said everything is set up for next time.

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROJECTS:**

Toll North: Mr. Cronce and Mr. Shute met with the County in November and were advised this property was still "in the pipeline".

Mr. Sean Pfeiffer, 74 Rocktown Rd., reported that Toll had reached out to him for help with their application; he reported to the Committee concerns and questions that Toll had.

Nunn: Mr. Cronce reported that two appraisers were given the go ahead to appraise this property; Mr. Shute will meet with them on Thursday.

Mountford: Mr. Shute reported that the County is not interested in this property as a preserved farm.

Wooden South: Mr. Shute reported that there were no updates.

Jingoli: Mr. Cronce reported that there were no updates.

Fozman: Mr. Shute advised that there was nothing new to report; he will follow up in early 2013.

Coleman Farm/Toll South: Mr. Cronce will work with Public Works to remove the trees.

**OTHER:**

County Grant: Mr. Shute reported that Ms. O'Brien contacted him via e-mail to advise that on the County's recommendation Township Committee adopt a resolution continuing the application to next year as there aren't funds this year.

Adam Property Boundary Line Issue: Mr. Cronce and Mr. Shute walked the Adam property; the fence is on West Amwell Township property. They spoke to the son of the property owner and sent a letter requesting the fence be moved in the next six months.

Trails: Mr. Cronce reported that they are making progress.

Environmental Committee Easement Project: Mr. Cronce reported that Cathy Urbanski attended the November Open Space Committee meeting to discuss this project. A follow up meeting took place to determine the criteria for the easements to be monitored. Ms. Urbanski is reviewing the tax maps. There are 140 easements; Mr. Shute created a checklist of which easements to monitor. The subcommittee will walk a few easements each weekend. Mr. Shute and Ms. Hills will work on this item in 2013; Mr. Cronce thanked them for their work on this.

National Park Services Questionnaire: Ms. Sommers-Sayre distributed a questionnaire from the National Park Services to the Committee requesting input for a future workshop they would like to hold. The National Park Services is interested in properties along the Delaware River including property in West Amwell Township. Ms. Sommers-Sayre received the questionnaire from Hunterdon Land Trust. The Committee discussed the questions and provided feedback to Ms. Sommers-Sayre.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Debt Service: Mr. Shute reported that he had a meeting with the CFO, finance committee, bond council and a financial advisory group to go over options to refinance Open Space debt which is due in February. Several options were discussed at this meeting and it was agreed on "Option 2" for refinance which would save the most money and doesn't deplete the Open Space Trust. The numbers are not final; rates are still being researched. The total Open Space debt is 2.4 million; this option would refinance a portion of debt. Mr. Shute said the process began last night at the Township Committee meeting but there is still a lot of work to be done. Mr. Shute detailed the Open Space debt, refinancing, projections, and funding of possible future projects with the Committee.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Pfeiffer inquired if the County municipal grant application was filed; Mr. Cronce replied that it was not. Mr. Pfeiffer advised that a resolution is needed if the application is not filed. Mr. Pfeiffer inquired if an annual update for PIG was filed; Mr. Shute replied that it was not filed as there are no new farms to add to it. Mr. Pfeiffer explained that in the past five years a targeted farm list was submitted to the SADC by the Committee; each year an application must be submitted as each year is a separate funding round. Mr. Cronce will follow up on this. Mr. Pfeiffer explained what is needed for the PIG application; one property will be added to it.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on January 8, 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Andreoli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sommers-Sayre, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25p.m. All were in favor; the motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine A. Rosikiewicz  
Open Space Secretary