

Open Space Advisory Committee – January 11, 2011

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Cronce, Fisher (Twp. Committee Liaison), Hess, Kilmer, Pfeiffer, Sommers-Sayre

Late Arrival: None

Absent: Andreoli, O'Brien

2011 Open Space Committee Reorganization

Introduction of New Members – Kyle Kilmer was welcomed to the committee. Pfeiffer noted that O'Brien was appointed by the Twp. Committee yesterday and he sent her the agenda, but she may not have seen the e-mail given the relatively short time frame.

Oaths of Office – The following oaths of office were administered:

Kyle Kilmer (3 year term)
Alison Sommers-Sayre (3 year term)

Nominations for 2011 Chairperson – Cronce nominated Pfeiffer with a second by Hess. Cronce made a motion to close the floor to nominations with a second by Sommers-Sayre, which was approved by voice vote. Motion to elect Pfeiffer as 2011 chairperson was approved by voice vote – all ayes, Pfeiffer abstain.

Nominations for 2011 Vice-Chairperson – Hess nominated Cronce with a second by Sommers-Sayre. Motion to close the floor to nominations was made by Hess with a second by Sommers-Sayre, which was approved by voice vote. Motion to elect Cronce as 2011 vice-chairperson was approved by voice vote – all ayes, Cronce abstain.

Nominations for 2011 Secretary – Cronce nominated Hess with a second by Sommers-Sayre. Motion to close the floor to nominations was made by Cronce with a second by Sommers-Sayre, which was approved by voice vote. Motion to elect Hess as 2011 secretary was approved by voice vote - all ayes, Hess abstain.

2011 Subcommittee Appointments:

By-laws Subcommittee – Deferred to next meeting.

Easement Monitoring Subcommittee – Cronce, Andreoli

GIS Mapping Subcommittee – Hess, with additional member to be appointed.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Conversation with Bill Rawlyk of D&R Greenway re: potential projects – Pfeiffer noted that Bill Rawlyk was expected to attend tonight, but he called at 6 p.m. this evening to advise he would not be able to attend tonight.

Approval of written record for 14Dec2010 meeting

(Andreoli, Cronce, Kilmer, O'Brien, Sommers-Sayre - ineligible)

Motion to approve the record as presented was made by Hess with a second by Pfeiffer. The record was approved.

Future Open Space Planning – Discussion

Open Space Plan & Green Acres Funding – It was noted there is about \$400,000 in Green Acres grant funding available which would need to be expended by the end of 2011. Projects already discussed and being considered are Bowers and Foran. We are waiting for maps from D&R Greenway on the Foran project. D&R Greenway may also be willing to help with the cost share on the Foran property by applying for a county grant. The Township Committee has authorized moving forward with an appraisal. Bill Rawlyk has also suggested a new project – Adam (Block 32, Lot 21.01, ~22 acres) on Barry Road. The landowner has expressed willingness to sell the property in fee simple at a 50% bargain sale to CMV. D&R Greenway is looking for the Township to provide 25% of the funding from our Green Acres grant funding. No municipal funding would be provided. There is also a question about who would hold title to the property – the Township or D&R Greenway. D&R is willing to take title but would also be OK with the Township taking title. The Committee was favorable to the Adam project, which Pfeiffer will discuss with the Township Committee.

With respect to the 2011 budget, Pfeiffer noted that we had received \$250 in last year's regular budget. However, the Committee had originally requested \$500 for a newsletter. Since the printed newsletter has been discontinued, Pfeiffer recommended that the \$250 be zeroed out in this year's budget. The Committee was in agreement.

Pfeiffer noted that he did put in a budget request to update the Open Space Plan and associated mapping this year. This would be funded via Open Space Trust Funds as opposed to the regular budget. There was some discussion about the benefit of producing a map of all the existing public access areas in the Township. It was agreed this would be worthwhile. Pfeiffer will talk to the planner about amending the budget request to include funding for such a map. Cronce will talk to landowners while he works on easement monitoring about marking trails.

Pfeiffer and Sommers-Sayre will work on a first draft of an updated Open Space Plan, once funding is available.

Municipal Farmland Preservation PIG Application (2009-2012 funding rounds) – Map data on the Nunn farm was received today and is being reviewed. Pfeiffer noted some issues on the maps that he will discuss with Rick Steffey at the Hunterdon County Planning Board.

Easement Monitoring

Update on easement monitoring activities – Cronic & Andreoli to meet with Baran to hand over responsibilities for monitoring. As monitoring occurs Cronic will ask landowners with public access corridors about including their properties on the trail map to be developed as well as marking the trails with appropriate signage.

Miscellaneous Project Updates

Open Space Newsletter – 2010 newsletter has been posted on the Township Web site. 2011 newsletter will also be a Web publication. Pfeiffer acknowledged Sommers-Sayre's fine work in coordinating the newsletter.

County Municipal Grant Application – The county has reduced the percentage of monies allocated to municipal funding from 15% to 10% as per January 7, 2011 letter from the Hunterdon County Planning Board to municipal mayors. 2011 application will be assigned to a specific person at the next meeting.

Goat Hill Trails - Hess to work on this project. Hess to obtain application from DEP and will complete application. Hess will contact NJ Park Service manager with authority to submit application and attempt to secure commitment. Application will be available in September, with December 15, 2011 application deadline.

Open Space Map Updates – Hess to update map to reflect a Green Acres fee simple acquisition as well as the fact that Gulick III is now under contract.

Project Assignments

No additional project assignments were made.

Farmland Preservation Project Update

- Amwell Hunt, Block 8, Lots 20 & 36, 130.36 acres, Route 179/Rock-Lamb Rd.
(Kilmer - recused due to owning property within 200')
Toll Brothers South, also known as West Amwell Ltd. Application has been submitted to USDA for soil conservation plan, which is still pending. Sharon Dragon is reviewing draft contracts with auctioneer firm and SADC. Pfeiffer has been working on getting the appraisals updated.

- Gulick III (Block 14, Lot 33.05) ~17 acres, Gulick Road
County PIG project. Contracts signed in November, 2010. County has awarded survey.
- Nunn (Block 8, Lot 29.01) ~30 acres, Mill Road
Liaison: Pfeiffer
Updated application received from County. Mapping data has been received. Pfeiffer noted some errors and will contact Rick Steffey at Hunterdon County. Pfeiffer will meet with Nunns to review application then submit it to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for approval.

Green Acres Project Update

- Bowers (Block 28, Lot 26) ~21.5 acres, Goat Hill Road
Conservation easement project. Catherine Drake approved preapproval forms and Pfeiffer has submitted paperwork to CFO to move forward on appraisal.
- Foran (Block 7, Lot 16.03) ~22 acres, Frontage Road.
Potential public access easement project. D&R Greenway to provide map data for preapproval process. Township Committee has approved moving forward with an appraisal.
- Kilmer (Block 8, Lots 14 & 15) ~62 acres, Route 179
(Kilmer – recuse due to being property owner)
Conservation easement project. Closed on October 13.
Reimbursement for land costs has been received. Pfeiffer completed soft cost reimbursement package which has been submitted to Green Acres.
- Lawson (Block 16, Lot 6.01) ~15 acres, Route 518.
Potential direct state acquisition.

Bill List

It was noted a \$1,900 invoice was received from Heffernan Associates for updating the appraisal on the Toll project.

Pfeiffer noted a \$2,000 donation was received from Lincoln and Danielle Wolfe and asked Fisher if a letter of thanks could be sent from the Township Committee. Pfeiffer will check with the Township Clerk.

Correspondence

No additional correspondence was discussed.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Hess with a second by Sommers-Sayre. Motion approved by voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 7:30 p.m.