

Open Space Advisory Committee – December 13, 2011

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Kilmer, Fisher (Twp. Committee Liaison), O'Brien, Pfeiffer, Sommers-Sayre

Late Arrival: None

Absent: Andreoli, Ashton, Cronce, Hess

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Approval of written record for 08Nov2011 meeting

(Andreoli, Ashton, Kilmer, Hess – ineligible)

Motion to approve the record as presented was made by O'Brien with a second by Sommers-Sayre. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Expiring Term

Pfeiffer advised that Pete Hess' appointment was expiring at the end of year and that it was unlikely he would want to be reappointed. Fisher noted that he had been discussing appointments with Cathy Urbanski, and Cathy had already made him aware of Hess' situation.

Future Open Space Planning – Discussion

Farmland Preservation Projects – Pfeiffer completed PIG application in November. Township Committee approved application at their November meeting, and it was submitted to the SADC via certified mail by the Township Clerk. There was also some extended discussion regarding the Toll North project, which is the top ranked farm in Hunterdon County. It was unanimously agreed that Toll North was the highest ranked and highest priority project in the Township.

Green Acres Funding Request – Green Acres funding request is due in February. Projects currently in pipeline include Bowers and Foran. Priority will be given to farmland preservation projects given that there is a 20% cost share for farmland projects as opposed to 50% for Green Acres projects.

Open Space Plan – Sommers-Sayre reviewed latest draft of the revised open space plan at length with the Committee and was provided with feedback by Pfeiffer with respect to technical and historical details.

Easement Monitoring

Update on easement monitoring activities – Nothing new to report.

Miscellaneous Project Updates

Open Space Newsletter – Newsletter will include 2011 preservation report and will be written following closing of Adam property in late December.

County Municipal Grant Application – O’Brien reported that we should expect a check in the mail based on conversations she has had with the County.

Open Space Map Updates – Kaluzny, Lawson and Gulick III still need to be added to map. Adam will also need to be added after anticipated closing in late December.

Project Assignments

No new project assignments were made.

Farmland Preservation Project Update

- Amwell Chase, Block 5, Lots 24 & 24.01, 211.42 acres, Route 179/202 (Cronce – recuse due to owning property within 200’)
Toll Brothers North. Pfeiffer advanced application with Hunterdon County and farm is ranked #1 in the county.
- 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. Based on suggestion made by Pfeiffer earlier this year, Zach Rich and Cathy Urbanski have been working on compiling a list of properties owned by Bryce Thompson in the Township. The Township may want to explore some donations and/or bargain sales of easement on Thompson properties as a supplement to the cash sale of the property. Pfeiffer noted that the amount of the cash transaction would still need to be a minimum of the high auction bid of \$385,000 in order to satisfy the SADC.
- Nunn (Block 8, Lot 29.01) ~30 acres, Mill Road
Appraisal checklist needs to be completed to complete application. Appraisals can begin upon receipt of “green light” approval from SADC.

Green Acres Project Update

- Adam (Block 32, Lot 21.01) ~22 acres, Barry Road
Potential Fee Simple Partnership with D&R Greenway. Township Committee has approved using up to \$175,000 of our Green Acres grant funding for purchase of property. No municipal funding will be utilized. Acquisition ordinance and request for Green Acres funding have been approved. Closing is tentatively week of December 22.
- Bowers (Block 28, Lot 26) ~21.5 acres, Goat Hill Road

Conservation easement project. Green Acres certification of appraisal still pending. Pfeiffer advised regarding status.

- Foran (Block 7, Lot 16.03) ~22 acres, Frontage Road.
Potential public access easement project. Green Acres has authorized moving forward with appraisals. One bid for appraisal received, two more will be required due to bid exceeding the bid threshold.

Bill List

No bills were presented. Pfeiffer noted an invoice from Sharon Dragan on Adam will likely be received in the near future.

Correspondence

No additional correspondence was discussed.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Pfeiffer thanked everyone for their service in 2011 and wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Sommers-Sayre with a second by Kilmer. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Next Meeting

2012 Reorganization Meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2012, 7:30 p.m.