

Open Space Advisory Committee – May 10, 2011

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Andreoli, Ashton, O'Brien, Pfeiffer, Sommers-Sayre

Late Arrival: None

Absent: Cronce, Fisher (Twp. Committee Liaison), Kilmer, Hess

Opening Statement by Chair

It was noted the regular April meeting could not be held due to lack of a quorum.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Approval of written record for 08Mar2011 meeting

(Andreoli, Hess, Kilmer, Sommers-Sayre – ineligible)

Addition of the meeting adjournment time was noted on the last page. Motion to approve the record was made by O'Brien with a second by Ashton. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes.

Future Open Space Planning – Discussion

Open Space Plan – Budget for open space plan update was approved. It was noted the prior plan is extremely out of date and includes some incorrect data. Sommers-Sayre will review the prior plan to determine how much of the material is still relevant and can be utilized as a basis. It is anticipated that much of the plan will need to be rewritten from scratch. There was considerable discussion about ideas of the plans as well as what should be incorporated into the accompanying maps. One map will update the Master Plan map of all of the preserved properties in the Township, last updated in 2006. A second, new map will map all areas with public access in the Township. There was also considerable discussion about Open Space debt service. It was noted that acquisition priorities going forward will need to be very focused given the Township Committee's decision to divert funding from the Open Space Trust that was previously dedicated to new acquisitions to paying the Calton debt service, as this will limit the funding available to preserve additional land.

Easement Monitoring

Update on easement monitoring activities – No new activity to discuss.

Miscellaneous Project Updates

Country Fair Presentation – Presentations, preparations and staffing for the Country Fair was discussion at length. Presentation will include an updated whiteboard with preservation map and data. Ashton will print the presentation.

Open Space Newsletter – Nothing new to report.

County Municipal Grant Application – O'Brien will complete application.

Open Space Map Updates – Lawson needs to be added to map upon receipt of survey from Green Acres.

Project Assignments

No additional 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. Township Committee rejected high bid of April auction. Project history and auction details were discussed at length.
- Gulick III (Block 14, Lot 33.05) ~17 acres, Gulick Road
County PIG project. Contracts signed in November, 2010. Survey has been completed.
- Nunn (Block 8, Lot 29.01) ~30 acres, Mill Road
Liaison: Pfeiffer
Appraisals will 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. D&R Greenway working on appraisals.
- Bowers (Block 28, Lot 26) ~21.5 acres, Goat Hill Road
Conservation easement project. Green Acres certification of appraisal pending.
- Foran (Block 7, Lot 16.03) ~22 acres, Frontage Road.
Potential public access easement project.
- Kilmer (Block 8, Lots 14 & 15) ~62 acres, Route 179
(Kilmer – recuse due to being property owner)
Conservation easement project. Check for soft costs received.
Project completed.
- Lawson (Block 16, Lot 6.01) 15.679 acres, Route 518.
Green Acres has completed this fee simple acquisition. There was no municipal cost share. Catherine Drake had provided surveys for the purpose of updating our maps.

Bill List

The following bill was received from R. Michael Schaible:

\$2500.00 – Bowers appraisal – Billed to reserve for preliminary expenses.

The following bill was received from Sharon Dragan, Esq.:

\$2048.60 – Toll (Auction preparations) – Billed to Toll Brothers Ord. 05-2009.

Correspondence

No additional correspondence was discussed.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Ashton with a second by Andreoli. Motion approved by voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m.