

Open Space Advisory Committee – January 12, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Andreoli, Baran, Cronce, Hess, Kowalski, Pfeiffer, Sommers-Sayre

Absent: Fisher (Twp. Committee Liaison)

2010 Open Space Committee Reorganization

Oaths of Office – Pfeiffer noted that all members of the Open Space Committee are now required to take and sign oaths of office. Pfeiffer was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk earlier today and is authorized to swear in the other members. Oaths of offices were administered and signed.

Nominations for 2010 Chairperson – The floor was opened for nominations. Hess nominated Pfeiffer for Chair with a second by Andreoli. There were no other nominations. A motion by Cronce to close the floor to nominations was seconded by Hess. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes; Pfeiffer – abstain. A vote was called on the election of Pfeiffer for chair – all ayes; Pfeiffer – abstain. Pfeiffer elected chair for 2010.

Nominations for 2010 Vice-Chairperson – Hess requested that he not be nominated for Vice-Chair again this year. After some discussion, Hess nominated Cronce for Vice-Chair with a second by Baran. A vote was called on the nomination – all ayes; Cronce - abstain. Cronce elected Vice-Chair for 2010.

Nominations for 2010 Secretary – Hess nominated Kowalski with a second by Andreoli. A vote was called on the nomination – all ayes; Kowalski – abstain.

2010 Subcommittee Appointments:

By-laws Subcommittee – Cronce, Pfeiffer

Easement Monitoring Subcommittee – Andreoli, Baran, Cronce

GIS Mapping Subcommittee – Baran, Hess

Opportunity for Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Approval of written record for 08Dec2009 meeting

Deferred to next meeting.

Future Open Space Planning – Discussion

Municipal Farmland Preservation PIG Application (2009/2010/2011 funding rounds) –Comments from the SADC were recently received and our special

planner Linda Weber is working on addressing them. The SADC comments were distributed and discussed.

Targeted Farms Discussion – Nunn and Gulick III are in the pipeline for this year, in addition to the Toll project. No new potential targeted farms were identified. County's option policy was discussed and the negative impact on targeted farms such as Hanover Shoe Farm. Pfeiffer noted that Roebing is not ready to proceed based on conversations with Bernie Meader. Jingoli did not reply to the letter sent from the Township.

Green Acres Funding – Letter from Catherine Drake regarding Green Acres funding was distributed and discussed. Catherine Drake thanked the Committee for the work they have been doing keeping current with all the paperwork.

2010 Budget Discussion – 2010 budget submission was discussed. Newsletter funding will be requested. Budget request will also include funding for anticipated 2010 projects plus contingencies.

Easement Monitoring

Letter from DEP Green Acres re: Easement Monitoring – Baran has obtained additional sign posts.

Update on easement monitoring activities – Chain and hasp was also obtained and will be installed at Calton site.

Easement Markers for New Development – Baran reviewed proposed easement markers for Heritage development and believes this would be a good model to use elsewhere in the Township. It was agreed standard for easement markers should be included in land use ordinance for easements required in new development applications.

Miscellaneous Project Updates

Open Space Newsletter – 2009 newsletter was in boxes over the holidays.

Open Space Map Updates – No new updates pending.

Project Assignments

No new project assignments were made.

Farmland Preservation Project Update

- Next Farmland Preservation status meeting at the Hunterdon County Planning Board is on January 20.
- Amwell Hunt, Block 8, Lots 20 & 36, 130.36 acres, Route 179/Rock-Lamb Rd.
Toll Brothers South, also known as West Amwell Ltd. Under contract.

Mayor and Township Clerk have been authorized to sign closing documents when available, subject to attorney review. Pfeiffer reported on status and the Committee discussed the project at some length.

- Gulick III (Block 14, Lot 33.05) ~17 acres, Gulick Road
Agricultural division of land from Gulick I. As a condition of CADB approval for Gulick I, the Gulicks have signed an option agreement granting West Amwell Township and Hunterdon County a five year option agreement, expiring February 28, 2013, to purchase a development rights easement for CMV, which remains to be determined. Farm ranks sufficiently high to be funded via the County PIG. County has ordered appraisals.
- Nunn (Block 8, Lot 29.01) ~30 acres, Mill Road
Liaison: Pfeiffer
Nunns returned the required option agreement to the County prior to the deadline. Farm will be pursued via the Municipal PIG. County will help with the GIS mapping.

Green Acres Project Update

- Bowers (Block 28, Lot 26) ~21.5 acres, Goat Hill Road
Potential conservation easement project.
- Kilmer (Block 8, Lots 14 & 15), ~62 acres, Route 179
Conservation easement project. Under contract. Environmental assessment and survey completed and being reviewed.
- King (Block 13, Lot 65) ~14 acres, Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road.
Potential conservation easement project.

Bill List

The following bill was received from Bohren and Bohren:

\$582.30 – Toll (West Amwell Ltd.) – Billed to Toll Brothers Ord. 05-2009.

The following bill was received from Gould Environmental:

\$285.00 – Toll (West Amwell Ltd.) – Billed to Toll Brothers Ord. 05-2009.

The following bill was received from Hermitage Press:

\$336.00 – 2009 Newsletter – Billed to 2009 Open Space O.E.

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

\$3856.70 – Toll (West Amwell Ltd.) – 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 Kowalski with a second by Hess. Motion carried on voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:30 p.m.