

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:34 p.m. Present for this meeting were the following Committee members: Ernie Andreoli, John Cronce (Committee Chair), George Fisher (Township Committee Liaison), Hal Shute (Vice Chair), Laurel Hills, Cathy Urbanski and Christine Rosikiewicz (Committee Secretary). Marla Ashton, Judith O'Brien and Alison Sommers-Sayre were absent.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was no public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 12, 2013 regular meeting minutes: Mr. Shute made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction; Ms. Urbanski seconded it. Motion was approved by roll call vote with all in favor and Ms. Hills and Mr. Andreoli abstaining.

March 12, 2013 closed session meeting minutes: Mr. Shute made a motion to approve the closed session meeting minutes from March 12, 2013. Ms. Urbanski seconded the motion. All were in favor; the closed session minutes were approved with Mr. Andreoli and Ms. Hills abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

Green Acres Projects

Wooden North: Mr. Shute contacted Jay Watson; Mr. Watson is waiting for the CMV. Both appraisals were acceptable. As soon as the CMV is received Mr. Watson can move forward with the environmental assessments and title work. A May or June closing is anticipated. Mr. Shute advised the Committee that funding and the title needs to be discussed and the contract will need to be reviewed. He solicited help; Ms. Hills and Ms. Rosikiewicz will assist with the contract.

Halper: Mr. Shute spoke to Pam at Green Acres; this property is moving forward.

Galloway: This property was briefly discussed; Mr. Shute will follow up.

Farmland Preservation Projects

Toll North: The attorneys have met to tweak the options agreement; preservation is moving along. Committee members commented favorably on this farm.

Wooden South: Mr. Cronce will reach out.

Coleman Farm/Toll South: No update.

Lambert: They are very interested; waiting on appraisals from the State.

Fozman: Mr. Shute sent an option agreement and application to Jim Fozman.

Jingoli: Mr. Jingoli contacted Mr. Fisher; he is happy with the road grading. He inquired about “cow crossing” signs; he has organic cattle and chicken on his farm. The Committee briefly discussed this property and possible preservation options; Mr. Fisher will walk the property.

County Grant/Trails: Ms. Urbanski researched the County grant for the trails; the grant involved using labor from inmates. The Committee agreed this type of grant would be better suited to a bigger project.

County Grant/Open Space: Mr. Shute explained that the Committee needs to apply for these grant funds in order to utilize them; Ms. O’Brien is working on this.

Trails: Mr. Shute has been scheduling trail walks on D&R trails on Sunday afternoons to get ideas for the proposed trail. Ms. Urbanski described the proposed trail; she will flag it with Mr. Cronce.

Debt Service: Mr. Shute has not seen the final debt service but noted that it worked out well and it is better than it was. This item will be removed from the Open Space agenda.

Review of Website: Mr. Fisher reported that a vendor has been chosen and a new website is being constructed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Signs: Ms. Urbanski showed three different sign designs to the Committee; the Committee provided feedback on them. The signs will outline the regulations regarding open space use. There will be 500 signs posted on all Township property approximately 100 feet apart. A sign design was chosen from the three samples; Ms. Urbanski will bring it to Township Committee for their approval. It was noted that signs would not be put up at Hewitt Park. Funding for the signs was briefly discussed.

South County Park: On Monday April 15th there will be a meeting with Parks and Recreation and Open Space Committee members to discuss developing the South County Park fields for active recreation.

Township Budget: Mr. Fisher reported that the budget will be introduced followed by a public hearing.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Sean Pfeifer commented favorably on preservation of the Jingoli property and mentioned ways to fund this preservation. Mr. Pfeifer provided a contact to provide history regarding the Fozman property.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Open Space Committee meeting is May 14th. Mr. Cronce inquired if the Committee members would like to take a month off from meeting in the summer.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Urbanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shute, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17p .m. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Rosikiewicz
Open Space Secretary