

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Ms. Rosikiewicz. Present for this meeting were the following Committee members: John Cronic, George Fisher, Jamie Kamph, Hal Shute, and Cathy Urbanski. Chris Kamnitsis, Dan Malek, and Rich Schaible were absent. Christine Rosikiewicz, Committee Secretary, and John Dale, Township Committee Liaison, were also present.

2016 REORGANIZATION

Nominations and Vote for Committee Chair: **Ms. Rosikiewicz opened the floor for nominations for Committee Chair. Mr. Shute made a motion to nominate John Cronic for Committee Chair. Ms. Urbanski seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

Nominations and Vote for Vice Chair: **Mr. Cronic opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Cronic nominated Mr. Shute for Vice Chair. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

2016 Meeting Dates: It was agreed the Committee would meet on the second Tuesday of each month and noted that this could change to every other month depending on the workload.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was no public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 10, 2015

Ms. Urbanski made a motion to approve the November 10, 2016 minutes. Mr. Cronic seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Green Acres Projects

Green Acres Signage: Mr. Cronic reported that signs have been put up. Mr. Shute has two signs remaining.

Farmland Preservation

Wooden: This property will be taken off the agenda.

Toll North (Amwell Chase): Mr. Cronic reported that this property was preserved and purchased by T&T. Mr. Cronic commented favorably on T&T cleaning up the property. There is progress every day and the farm is coming back to where it was. Mr. Shute suggested the owner should be encouraged to request a sign from the State for the property.

Lambert: Mr. Shute reported that this property closed on December 24, 2016. Mr. Cronic commented favorably on Mr. Shute's hard work.

Holcombe III: Mr. Shute said there is a question about the cell tower. There are two buffers. One is for a 100ft radius around the tower; one is for 200ft (twice the height of the tower). There is a

question of what the 200ft buffer is for. Mr. Holcombe may not get paid for the area of the second buffer depending on what the restrictions on that area are. Mr. Shute has been researching possible restrictions on the second buffer in Township records. Appraisals will be done soon.

Fulper: Mr. Shute spoke to Mr. Fulper; Mr. Fulper wants to move forward. Mr. Shute will talk to Township Committee before going forward noting it is a large project.

Other

Green Acres Signage (revisited): Mr. Cronce agreed a sign should be put up at the T&T property. He suggested the Township post signs on preserved land. Ms. Urbanski noted that if the Township put a sign there would also need to be one acknowledging the State and other partners. This was discussed; it was agreed that Township signs would not be put up. Ms. Kamph commented favorably on making the Township contribution public without using signs.

Mr. Dale arrived at this time (7:24).

Hunterdon Land Trust Proposal: Ms. Kamph explained that she consulted with Hunterdon Land Trust for a proposal to take care of properties once the Open Space Advisory Committee is obsolete. A two page proposal was distributed to the Committee in advance via e-mail. Monitoring the property, deer management, and installing signage was included in the proposal. Information on how HLT manage deer was included. Ms. Kamph commented favorably on the proposal. The fees listed on the proposal were annual fees; some items would only need to be done once i.e. deed reviews, mapping.

Mr. Cronce inquired what is triggering the Committee to consider this. Ms. Kamph said there is a lack of recordkeeping on the preserved properties. There was a discussion on finding information from deeds and the large scope of the job. Ms. Urbanski spoke about grant funds the Committee could get to maintain the properties and trails. She added that if the Committee is not preserving as many properties they will have time to do the maintenance on properties already preserved. Comments were exchanged including opinions on whether or not to disband the Committee and the amount of properties remaining to preserve.

Ms. Urbanski referred to the map she created utilizing grant funds which depicts all preserved property. Comments were exchanged on whether the Committee or an outside group should update the maps. It was noted that if the Committee ceases to do acquisitions then the make-up of the Committee will change.

Comments were exchanged regarding the hunting program including the amount of revenue it generates, that it is in its fifth year, that properties are chosen by lottery, and that it is for deer control and not to generate revenue. It was noted that more money could be raised but there was a previous decision to only have residents hunt on the Township property. This season the deer population has been reduced by disease, wolves, and coyotes. Mr. Cronce said the Committee could discuss this program again next month.

Ms. Kamph said Patty Ruby from Hunterdon Land Trust would be available to come to a meeting and discuss the proposal.

The addition of block and lot numbers to the open space map was discussed. The map will also be updated with recently preserved properties. Ms. Urbanski will ask Mr. Banish for an estimate to update the map.

Ms. Kamph stressed that block and lot numbers should be on the maps and they should be easily accessible to the public.

Mr. Cronce asked Ms. Kamph to ask Ms. Ruby to attend the next Committee meeting.

Hunting Program: Mr. Cronce commented that the season is still going strong.

Trail Project: Mr. Shute has been working on the trails every Sunday morning and it is going well; they should be finished at the end of the winter.

Website: Ms. Urbanski updated the Committee's membership and liaisons on the Township website. In addition she updated the open space map and conservation easement map.

Ms. Urbanski is working on the County grant and confirmed information with Mr. Shute regarding this.

Targeted Farm List: Mr. Shute went over the properties that were added to the list. The Committee discussed other possible properties to preserve. There are no Green Acres funds available but there is limited State funding.

NEW BUSINESS:

Press Release 12/28/15 from Hunterdon County Department of Planning, Economic Development & Land Use re: County Seeks Comments on Updated Open Space Trust Fund Plan

Mr. Cronce asked the Committee if they had any comments. He reported that he and Mr. Shute attend the County meeting every month. Ms. Urbanski reported that the County is focusing on maintenance. The County will provide funds for maintenance of preserved properties and provide a plan.

CORRESPONDENCE:

12/17/15 e-mail from Natural Lands Trust re: PennEast Update Notice: Mr. Cronce inquired about the status of the pipeline. Ms. Urbanski said an environmental impact statement is being made by PennEast.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

There was no public present.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be February 9, 2016 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Urbanski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fisher, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. All were in favor; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Rosikiewicz, Open Space Secretary