

Minutes for the Open Space Committee

March 9, 2021

Call to order at 7:02.

Open Public Meetings Statement – Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Hunterdon County Democrat and was posted on the bulletin board at Town Hall according to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act. A copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

Roll call: Cronce, Fisher, Urbanski, Bergenfeld (TC liaison). All present.

Approval of minutes: January 12, 2021. Approved, with no changes.

Opportunity for Public Comment - No members of the public were present.

Business:

Hunting Program - Dan Malek has resigned as an OS member and he will be missed. Dan has provided the following for members for the Hunting Program: the deer hunting survey form, regulations, the deer management program, and a comprehensive outline of the timeline for notifications to the hunting clubs. It was noted that hunting clubs have reported a shortage of deer and may find it hard to meet their quotas. Discussion as to speak with the clubs (John will do) and give them some leeway, as the deer have become mostly nocturnal.

The mailing for the deer hunt survey is now late. Cathy will work with Maria to get the information sent to the clubs soon.

Website – Cathy reported that she has been assigned by the website committee to update the OS content for the new site and keep it up to date. Also, she is to prepare a trails program for the site.

Trails

Major discussion as to the trails. There are four trails in the Twp. as per the D+R Greenway site: Rockhopper Trail, Dry Run Creek, Prides' Point, and Kyle's trail. These will be selected for our website. These trails are maintained by volunteers, mostly from D&R Greenway.

Serious discussion as to all of the easements in the Twp. which have easements open to the public. None of these easements have trail or access delineation. The question arose as to access for the public on such parcels. It was decided that no access to said easements would be permissible until the "trail" was surveyed and delineated. This would be for the safety of the public and also to protect the landowner. Steve will check with the twp. attorney for guidance in this matter.

Open Space Map – Cathy is working on the update. She had just received information for the final delineation off the 30 acres (Green Acres) on the municipal property from Katrina Campbell, twp. attorney. She will get the map updated and post on our current website.

Farmland Preservation Projects – Still pending - Hoyer. Decision to remove Barry Runkle as there are mortgage problems which seem to be unable to be resolved. Chairman Cronce has spoken with him several times to no avail. John noted that Art Foran may be interested in preservation.

Budget – Review of current Open Space Trust Fund allocations, debt, maintenance, etc. Information received from CFO Tom Carro. Members reviewed this information, and, after a lengthy discussion, decided to leave the OS

trust fund revenues currently being used for bond debts and green trust loans as is. Discussion to lower the OS tax, but wait until the debt is paid and then consider it.

Easement monitoring – deferred for now.

Signage- John provided that Township signs were placed at Music Mountain and on Barry Road.

Power company tree cutting and log removal by a resident – The resident was contacted by Katrina Campbell, Township Attorney, and the matter has been resolved.

Millings on preserved property on Rt. 179 – Questions arose as to the delineation of the 5 acre exception area. The Township has been given no information. Cathy will contact Bob Hurley and Stefanie Miller for guidance.

Open to members for further discussion – George provided maps and information which he received from Hal. Cathy will review and file said information.

Opportunity for Public Comment- no members of the public were present

Next Meeting Date – May 11, 2021

Adjournment at 8:22

Minutes prepared by C. Urbanski