

## **Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes**

**Monday, January 14, 2019**

Prepared by Rosalind Westlake, OS Chair

OS Chairperson Rosalind Westlake called the meeting to order and initiated the roll call. In attendance were: Rosalind Westlake, Larry Coffey, Joshua Goldman and Steven Smotrich. Bob Hornby, County Open Space Coordinator was also present as a guest.

Member Coffey made a motion to elect Member Westlake as Chairperson for 2019, it was seconded by Member Smotrich. Member Westlake made a motion to elect Member Coffey as Vice Chair, it was seconded by Member Smotrich.

The December 17, 2018 meeting minutes could not be adopted as there were only two eligible members present to vote. Adoption of the December minutes was tabled until the February meeting.

John Watson from the D&R Greenway Land Trust made a presentation to the OS Committee to request assistance with the purchase of approximately 60 acres of land adjacent to the Plum Brook Preserve. The Preserve is managed as a natural area with public access, hiking trails and also hunting. The 60 acres would expand the Preserve. The CMV is \$782,100 and the anticipated purchase price is \$625,680. D&R is requesting that the Twp. authorize the expenditure of \$400,000 of its Green Acres allocation to assist with this purchase. Member Coffey made a motion to recommend use of the Green Acres allocation for this purchase, it was seconded by Member Goldman, and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The OS Committee received an update on the following applications:

- Maresca (Martin Farm) is on the SADC agenda for February on condition of approval by the State regarding access to the cemetery; the County will accept the property without an easement for access; the OS Committee agreed that no easement was acceptable to it as well; a motion was made by Member Goldman and seconded by Member Coffey to support removal of the condition and was carried unanimously.
- Lee/Lau - no change in status.
- Bellsflower – the township passed a resolution allowing the unwinding of the subdivision
- US Agrinova accepted the offer.
- Kohler Farm is still in SADC review as a result of the impact of the PennEast Pipeline on ownership issues; the NJ AG.'s office has taken the position that until fully permitted, the pipeline does not exist.

The Committee learned from Mr. Hornby that the County has doubled funding for 2019, including for cost share percentages and technical assistance. Mr. Hornby advised that the County wants the townships to spend their OS funds.

Member Coffey advised that the Agricultural Commission continues to discuss acquisition of the Curtiss property outright from the family and to then sell the development rights. Member Coffey also advised that the Alderford/Kurtzenberger parcel continues to be explored.

There was no update on the County OS Committee as there was no meeting in December.

Member Smotrich reminded the OSC that the Rec Commission would be having its public meeting on January 26, 2019 at 9 am to discuss programs, provide information and to gather information for the OSRP.

Chairperson Westlake advised that two candidates for the OS Coordinator position had been interviewed that evening. It was determined by the interview committee that although D. Shearer who resides in Stockton was very personable and likely to be able to work well with Stockton/Delaware Township residents, he did not possess the technical skills needed for the position. The interview committee was impressed with the credentials of the other candidate, K. Fullerton. She is an experienced licensed professional planner and is also the OS Coordinator for East Amwell Township. A motion was made by Member Coffey and seconded by Member Goldman to recommend Katherine Fullerton for the position at a rate of \$15 per hour, with a requirement of a minimum of three hours per week at the offices in the Municipal Building. The motion was carried unanimously.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

It was noted that the next meeting is February 11, 2019.

With no further business Member Goldman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Member Smotrich seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.