

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes

Monday, April 15, 2019

Prepared by Katherine Fullerton, Open Space Coordinator

Open Space Chairperson Rosalind Westlake called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Open Space Coordinator Katherine Fullerton took the roll call. In attendance were: Rosalind Westlake, Larry Coffey, Joshua Goldman, Susan Lockwood, and Steven Smotrich. Donna Dahringer has resigned as the liaison from the Environmental Commission. Marilyn Cummings from the Historic Advisory Committee was present.

Member Lockwood made a motion to approve the December 17, 2018 meeting minutes and Member Coffey seconded the motion. All voted in favor, Members Goldman and Smotrich abstained. Member Smotrich made a motion to approve the January 14, 2019 meeting minutes and Member Coffey seconded the motion. All voted in favor except for Member Lockwood who abstained. Member Lockwood made a motion to approve the March 18, 2019 meeting minutes and Member Coffey seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with Member Goldman abstaining.

Update of Existing Applications

The OS Committee received an update on the following applications:

- Maresca - Coordinator Fullerton handed out a confidential memo from the Township Attorney. Their staff has had success in contacting an adjacent property owner in regard to an access easement to the Moore Cemetery. The OS Committee discussed the particulars of the memo and the costs associated with the actions. It was unclear if the Township is acquiring the Cemetery or not. It was noted that there was no cost mentioned for a survey and there should be at least a survey of the easement done. Coordinator Fullerton will write a memo to the Township Committee outlining these concerns. In general, there was support for the adjacent property owner to provide the access easement.
- Lee/Lau – the title and the survey have been requested. The title has been received and sent to the SADC and the surveyor. The Township is using Newton Land Surveyors.
- Bellsflower has returned the request for the access easement.
- Kohler Farm – no update.
- Cizek is moving toward closing. D&R Greenway is waiting for Green Acres funding.
- Curtis Farm – Member Coffey made a motion to allow the Agriculture Advisory Committee to request appraisals for the Curtis Farm as needed and to be paid for out of the Open Space Trust Fund. Member Goldman seconded the motion, and there was a roll call vote in which everyone approved the spending.
- Kulas Farm – This property is located at 80 Brookville Hollow Road, Block 60 Lot 17 and 17.01. Mr. Kulas needs to get some things in order prior to applying for farmland preservation. He will aim for the fall round at the County.
- Prutzman Farm – This property is located at 70 Sandy Ridge Road, Block 57 Lots 10 and 11. The applicant has not yet submitted an application.
- Pierman – NJCF will be applying for farmland preservation through the non-profit round at SADC.
- Application for Municipal Grant Funds from Hunterdon County – the Township will be making an application to the County requesting the municipal allocation of the County Open Space Tax. Delaware

Township has not applied for these funds since 2014, so there is a substantial amount to be used. The CFO would like to use the funds toward the \$312,000 open space debt payment due this year. Member Coffey made a motion to approve the appropriate actions necessary to submit the application to the County. Member Smotrich seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, members Coffey, Lockwood, Smotrich, and Westlake voted in favor, Member Goldman recused himself.

Chairperson Westlake noted that she had had a conversation with the CFO about deferring the \$120,000 debit payment until later in the year, after other payments have been made out of the Open Space Trust Fund.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman reported on the County Open Space Committee. The County voted to give D&R Greenway the necessary funds for Cizek. The County has a new rating system for acquisition applications. Member Goldman made a suggestion to the County Open Space Advisory Committee – that Herron Glen golf course should plant a pollinator garden. The County had a short talk about a new classification of streams and the revised buffers for certain streams. Member Lockwood noted that a C-1 stream is regulated, not preserved or protected.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Member Smotrich reported on the OSRP. There was a public hearing in January for the OSRP. Similar to the County Open Space Plan, they have done a survey of the public asking how much of \$1 should be put toward different options of open space and recreation. So far, most responses indicate that residents want more of what exists – maintained facilities, rather than more and larger facilities or more programs.

Comments from the Committee

Member Lockwood reported on her experience at the NJCF Rally last Friday, April 12. She attended an Update on Agriculture session that discussed the revisions to the Municipal PIG regulations. The Committee discussed the implications of these revisions and the need for greater input from the Agriculture Advisory Committee. Member Lockwood also attended a session on Green Plans as part of the municipal Master Plan. This would be a plan that incorporates thoughtful environmental projects in all aspects of a municipality, not just preserving a property, but adding a meadow or rain garden where appropriate. This would give volunteers focused projects to improve the Township. It was decided that this should be discussed at the next Open Space Committee meeting.

It was announced that the Rutgers Cooperative extension has grants for rain gardens.

Chairperson Westlake opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no public, she closed the meeting to the public.

Member Goldman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Smotrich seconded the motion. The meeting ended at approximately 8:40pm.