

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2019

Prepared by Katherine Fullerton, Open Space Coordinator

Open Space Chairperson Rosalind Westlake called the meeting to order at 7:36pm. Open Space Coordinator Katherine Fullerton took the roll call. In attendance were: Joshua Goldman, Susan Lockwood, and Rosalind Westlake.

Approval of the minutes from the November 18, 2019 Open Space Committee meeting were tabled, as there was not a quorum of members who had attended the November meeting.

Update of Existing Applications

The OS Committee received an update on the following applications:

- Maresca –
The SADC has expressed a greater interest in access to the cemetery than previously thought. The SADC is conducting an independent Title Search of the adjacent lots to determine if there is any previous access to the cemetery.
- Lee/Lau – This application is tabled until April, when the Lee/Lau family has returned from Hong Kong.
- Cizek – D&R Greenway has not finalized the information for closing. The Township approved the ordinance to convey the property to D&R Greenway as part of the closing, along with the proposed gap funding if needed. It is anticipated that more information will be provided in January.
- Curtis Farm – NJCF is still in negotiations with Mr. Curtis, with the understanding that the application should be transferred to SADC as quickly as possible. NJCF met with Ms. Fullerton and County staff to discuss the process of preservation for this property. NJCF feels it has a value that Mr. Curtis will accept for preservation. The County is aware of the status of this property and is working with NJCF to have SADC fund the preservation and hold the easement.
- Herrman Farm – Block 17 Lot 20. The application is waiting for SADC Greenlight.

New Applications/Updates

There are no new applications. There are people with properties less than the minimum requirements who are interested in preservation, but they are currently unable to preserve.

Diane McDaniels, the CFO, sent an email to Chairperson Westlake and Coordinator Fullerton with a spreadsheet that projected the Open Space budget for the next 20 years. She wanted the Open Space Committee members comments and an estimate of future acquisition expenses, committed and

proposed. It was also noted that the debt will be completely paid off by 2039. Coordinator Fullerton reviewed the existing expenses. It was noted that SADC likes having the Committee reviewing the target list and estimating the expenses. It was decided that at a future meeting the Committee will review the target list and estimates for preserving these properties.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman was unable to attend the November County Open Space Committee meeting, but reported that the Committee reviewed open space properties in Kingwood, Bethlehem, and Raritan. Member Goldman reviewed the notes online and it appears that neither the Kingwood nor the Raritan properties were near Delaware.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Member Smotrich was not available to provide an Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

Committee Comments

Member Lockwood reported that she will continue to be the Township Committee representative for the Open Space Committee.

There was a question regarding the term limits for Committee members. The Clerk had just been reviewing this for the new year. Terms for At-Large Members are three years, while representatives from other committees follow the terms of their original committees. It was noted that Member Goldman is the only At-Large member. Member Lockwood made an appeal for everyone to ask around for potential Open Space Committee members.

Coordinator Fullerton confirmed that the application letter to the SADC was emailed and a confirmation was received from SADC.

Chairperson Westlake wished everyone Happy Holidays and opened the meeting to the public.

The scheduled Reorganization meeting is for January 21, 2020. As there may be a question regarding having a quorum, the schedule will be reviewed. It may be that the reorganization meeting will be February 18, 2020.

The meeting ended at approximately 8pm.