

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes
Monday, December 21, 2020
Prepared by Katherine Fullerton, Open Space Coordinator

Join Zoom Meeting

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Attendees are asked to announce themselves when they come into the meeting, so that all in attendance can be aware of each other. If using the computer video, we ask that you change your name upon entering the meeting.

Open Space Vice Chairperson Larry Coffey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Open Space Coordinator Katherine Fullerton took the roll call. In attendance were: Larry Coffey, Joshua Goldman, Susan Lockwood, and Steven Smotrich.

Member Goldman made a motion to approve the November 16, 2020 meeting minutes and Member Smotrich seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Update of Existing Applications

The OS Committee received an update on the following applications:

- Maresca –
The Martin/Maresca property closed with SADC on Friday December 18, 2020.

- Lee/Lau –
There are some title issues that we are working on with the title company and SADC. Just today, we have made some progress with the title issues and we hope that SADC will accept the proposed change. This should be the final concern regarding this property.

- Curtis Farm –
There has been no change to the Non-profit grant applications. The property was walked by County and SADC representatives.
- The Yerk property along Sergeantsville Road is still being considered for preservation – perhaps Federal funding.
- The file for the Costabile Anthony property Block 60 Lot 9.04, was reviewed. It appears that the SADC was preserving the property in 2003 and then it wasn't. As SADC has been moving their offices the past two weeks, there has been no information from them as to why the property wasn't preserved.

Discussion January and February 2021 schedule

The Township has hired a Deputy Clerk who is doing the daily work of the Clerk at the Township. Tiffany Crivelli has begun working on preparing the Committees for Reorganization and noticed for the Open Space Committee meeting already. Since meeting on the third Tuesday of January and February worked last year, Coordinator Fullerton had suggested to the Deputy Clerk that January 19 would work as a reorganization meeting date. The Committee agreed. The notice did state that the meeting would start at 7pm, so the members are aware that they need to arrive early on January 19.

The February 16 date at 7:30 was acceptable, although it was pointed out that the composition of the Committee could change in January, depending on Reorganization.

Regarding Reorganization, Coordinator Fullerton alerted the members that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk have been reviewing the files for the Committees. There has been very little paperwork filed for the past few years, and no oaths on file for Committee members. Therefore, all Committee members will need to take oaths during the reorganization meeting. It was pointed out that most of the members of the Open Space Committee represent other committees and would take their oaths there. Coordinator Fullerton offered to confirm this with the Township Attorney and Clerk.

For those who do take oaths, the process will be different, due to Zoom. The paperwork will be emailed to those taking oaths, after taking the oath, the member can sign the paperwork then either scan it and email it back to the Township, or drop it off at the Township building.

Discussion of Farmland Preservation Plan

There was no discussion of the Farmland Preservation Plan.

County Open Space Committee Update

There were three Municipal Grant applications at the County level. Bethlehem, Hampton, and Glen Gardner applied for a property to be preserved, Holland had an application for the GenOn property that should provide access to the County's future river park, and Kingwood applied for funds for a new playground. There were no other grant applications. The Prescott Bridge is still being worked on. The County Park Department has embraced virtual lessons and has several interesting classes over the winter. The Park Department will be mapping all the Ash trees on County property, particularly those near parking spaces and trails, that could cause hazards to park users.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

It appears that no one from the Township Committee recalls if the Improvement and Maintenance Plan was formally approved by the Township Committee on November 9, 2020 or not. The Township Committee began discussing the funding process and a vote was never taken due to the discussion. The Open Space Committee members discussed the funding process themselves. The funding application is the same that has always been used for the Township to acquire the County Municipal Allocation funds. There is no final report that needs to be done. The minutes posted on the Township website indicate the discussion, but no vote was taken. It appears that the work for the Plan has been completed. Coordinator Fullerton offered to discuss having the Plan put on the Township Committee agenda with the Township Clerk. There was a question regarding the County Grant Application Process, so Coordinator Fullerton offered to confirm the process with Mr. Millette at the County.

Comments from the Committee

There were no comments from any Committee members. There were no members of the public, so the Chair closed the meeting to the public.

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