

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes

Monday, November 15, 2021

Prepared by Rosalind Westlake, Open Space Chair

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 Chairperson Rosalind Westlake called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Westlake and then she took the roll call. In attendance were: Larry Coffey, Joshua Goldman, Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, Karin Peklak, Steven Smotrich, Rosalind Westlake.

The Committee reviewed the September 20, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Member Lockwood to adopt the September minutes and the motion was seconded by Member Smotrich. All voted in favor. The Committee reviewed the October 18, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Member Goldman to adopt the October minutes and the motion was seconded by Member Lockwood. All voted in favor.

Update of Existing Applications

Chair Westlake advised that there were presently no pending applications.

Open Space Coordinator Position

Chair Westlake advised that no Open Space Coordinator had been hired but that a decision might be pending possibly in time for the December OSC Meeting.

Review of Targeted Farms List

Chair Westlake advised that she had received a list from the Hunterdon County Coordinator. According to comments from the Committee, the list appeared to be far different than the Committee's understanding of same.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman advised that County has not met since the last meeting, but that a meeting was scheduled for November 22, 2021.

Comments from the Committee

Chair Westlake noted that the Township was in receipt of an award of \$500,000 in Green Acres funding. She also advised that the SADC was still not willing to pursue applications along the PennEast Pipeline until further notice. The Committee was advised that properties in Delaware Township and Lambertville were included in the same application for FEMA funding and that the municipalities were still waiting for FEMA approval. Blue Acres applications had been submitted for the properties along the Wickecheoke

Member Lockwood noted that the Township Committee had twice approved the use of funding for a park planner and for using Open Space Funds. She noted that there was a need to be more transparent, that the process needed to be public and the annual report should identify the costs of the planner.

Member Goldman had no comments.

Member Smotrich reported that the Township was going to meet with Collier Group for Park Planning services in January. He noted that the Recreation Commission expressed a desire to meet directly with the Planner as well.

Member Peklak inquired as to the nature and scope of the various Blue Acres, FEMA and NJ Risk Management programs and was provided with detailed explanations from Members Lockwood, Katz and Goldman. The Members advised that if funds are approved, then, provided the property is eligible for preservation, the Committee can then partner with the State, the County and private organizations. Member Coffey noted as an aside that prime soils have priority in preservation funding.

Member Katz had no comments other than to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Coffey noted for the record that at one time, the Township had considered not allowing any buildback in flood plains.

Meeting Open to the Public

There were no members of the public present, so the Chair closed the meeting to the public.

Member Peklak made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Coffey seconded the motion. The meeting ended at approximately 8:20 pm.