

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
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 Coordinator Katherine Fullerton called the meeting to order at 7:31 and took the roll call. In attendance were: Larry Coffey, Joshua Goldman, and Rosalind Westlake. Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, and Steven Smotrich were in attendance but have not been officially chosen by their committees for representation on the Open Space Committee.

Ms. Fullerton began the Open Space Committee Reorganization by asking for any nominations for Chair of the Open Space Committee. Member Lockwood nominated Member Westlake as the Chair and Member Coffey seconded this nomination. Member Westlake accepted the nomination. The nominations were closed and all approved the nomination. Chair Westlake continued the Reorganization by asking for any nominations for Vice Chair. Member Goldman nominated Member Coffey for Vice Chair and Member Smotrich seconded this nomination. The nominations were closed and all approved Member Coffey as Vice Chair. All the members were in favor of the Committee meeting on the third Monday of each month, with the exception of February, when the Committee will meet on the third Tuesday.

The minutes for December 21, 2020 meeting minutes were tabled as the minutes sent out were incomplete.

Update of Existing Applications

The OS Committee received an update on the following applications:

- Lee/Lau –
There were some issues with the title and we are waiting for a revised survey. When that has been finalized with SADC, we can anticipate a closing.
- Curtis Farm –
The SADC granted final approval, and apparently the Governor has signed off on the payment. The County is expected to take possession of the deed as part of the final closing. NJCF has not indicated that they have closed on the property, but the project is moving swiftly.
- The Yerk property along Sergeantsville Road is still being considered for preservation, but nothing new has happened. The Farm Business plan is being revised, which might allow for Federal funding. It would be optimal if the Yerks could be a contract purchaser of the Darling property and preserve all 30 acres together
- The Costabile/Anthony Trust property at Block 60 Lot 9.04 was discussed with SADC. The offer from SADC for a fee simple purchase was denied due to the price of \$13,000 an acre in 2005. It is currently on the market for close to \$30,000 an acre. Ms. Fullerton suggested contacting NJCF to see if they can work on a better price.
- In speaking with Mr. Hornby at the County, there is a person who is interested in starting a brewery on a preserved farm. It is a good-sized operation with 20 employees and a number of trucks. Mr. Hornby has been speaking with Mayor Waltman regarding an appropriate location for such an operation. If Committee members have any ideas, they should let Mr. Hornby know.
- A few months ago, Marylin Cummings from the Historic Preservation Committee expressed some thoughts regarding historic cemeteries and in the past week, but declined an offer to be on the Open Space Committee agenda to discuss open space and cemeteries. In the past week, there has been more discussion about historic cemeteries, but still no interest to attend a Committee meeting. There may be something pending regarding historic cemeteries.
- Since there are so few active application, Ms. Fullerton was thinking of sending out some letters to some of the higher-ranking properties on the Target list. The letter would promote the successful NJ farmland preservation program and the County's spring round for applications. Committee members felt this would be good outreach. There was recollection of presentations done to landowners in the past. Perhaps next year we can try to do a good presentation.

Discussion of Open Space Improvement and Maintenance Plan

The Township Committee will review the Open Space Improvement and Maintenance Plan at February's Township Committee meeting.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman announced that there has been no County Open Space Committee meeting yet. There was no update.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Member Smotrich thanked Ms. Fullerton for her memo on the Improvement and Maintenance Plan and mentioned that it is anticipated that the Plan will be reviewed at the February Township Committee meeting and approved at the March Township Committee meeting. Member Smotrich questioned why the Township Committee would extend the time to approve the Plan, when this appears to be easy money from the County. Ms. Fullerton explained that Township staff had missed putting this on the agenda for the January 11 Township Committee meeting and from that, the staff promoted having a discussion on the Plan at one meeting and voting on it at the following meeting so that members have enough time to fully read the Plan. The Mayor chose to discuss the Plan in February and vote on it in March. Ms. Fullerton pointed out that if the Township Committee feels comfortable with the Plan and the application process, the Township Committee can approve it at one meeting. Member Lockwood agreed that the Plan seems well done so the Township Committee should be able to vote on it in February. It was suggested that a Recreation Committee member attending the Township Committee meeting could be useful. It was also noted that Diane McDaniel understands the application process fully, so she would be able to answer questions as well.

Comments from the Committee

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

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