

Delaware Township, Open Space Committee  
DRAFT October 16, 2023 Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Delaware Township Open Space Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Rosalind Westlake

#### NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

The Notice Requirements provided for in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. Proper notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, and the Star Ledger, posted at the Delaware Township Municipal Building and filed with the Township Clerk.

#### PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Chair led the Committee in the pledge to the flag.

#### ROLL CALL

Present: Rosalind Westlake, Karin Peklak, Susan Lockwood, Steve Smotrich, Kathy Katz, Mark Wright

Absent: Heidi Kovacs, Joshua Goldman, Larry Coffey

#### REVIEW OF MINUTES

April 17, 2023 Minutes were approved on Motion by Member Katz and second by Member Lockwood; July 17, 2023 Minutes were approved on Motion by Member Smotrich and second by Member Wright, Member Peklak abstained.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Chair Westlake turned over the discussion of the application by Gale Byrnes for Blk 6, Lot 7 on Boars Head Road to Robert Hornby, County Administrator for Farmland Preservation. Mr. Hornby explained the process that the OSC should evaluate whether the application fits the goals of the Township and if so request the Township Committee to approve the application for submission. Mr. Hornby then advised that the next step would be to bid for two appraisals through D. McDonald and that the estimated cost to the OSC would be \$4K to \$5K. If the appraisals are acceptable to the applicant, the ultimate offer would come from the SADC. Mr. Hornby then advised that the next step would be to refer the application to the Ag Advisory Committee and then to review the application at the next meeting to refer to the Township Committee. A motion was made by Member Katz to refer to the AAC and then to review in November for referral to the TC, the motion was seconded by Member Lockwood and all voted in favor.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Chair Westlake opened the discussion of the proposal for services from the Land Conservancy of NJ. Member Katz abstained from the discussion. Member Lockwood expressed concern about access and availability to the Land Conservancy for applicants and that the proposal would not offer a "local" face/in person relationship for the applicant. Member Peklak wanted to know how the proposal compared to the job posting on the Township website. Member Peklak also raised serious concerns about whether the Land Conservancy had experience with other municipalities and also whether they would have conflicts of interest in representing multiple entities competing for the same funds. Member Smotrich raised general concern about the applicant and if they would have a specific contact person at the Land Conservancy or if they would wind up with an amorphous team; Member Wright was generally okay with the proposal especially as he feels that there is urgency in finding a coordinator. Member Lockwood noted that the OSC needs a person who can dedicate the time to engage in multiple forms of outreach. There was a general consensus that it might be worth reposting the position in the form of professional services as opposed to a part-time employment position. Chair Westlake agreed to prepare a letter for OSC review to be sent to the TC with the OSC recommendation for moving forward with fulling the position of Open Space Coordinator.

#### HUNTERDON COUNTY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE UPDATE

None.

#### GRANT/WEBSITE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Member Katz reported that the Subcommittee would be meeting on Thursday and that work was being done on gathering information for the list of public access sites.

#### NEWS/UPDATES FOR WEBSITE & THE BRIDGE {Quarterly}

The Subcommittee Members noted that there was confusion as to who was responsible for/able to assist with access to the Township website and with design of the Open Space Page. Member Lockwood requested a copy of the Open Space Flyer that was prepared for use in an article for the Bridge.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### COMMENTS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Member Peklak inquired about the ability to go back to virtual meetings or to allow for hybrid meetings; Chair Westlake advised that unless the Township Committee authorized an email for the OSC and allowed Zoom access, it would not be possible to accommodate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Kathy Katz, second by K. Peklak to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Rosalind Westlake, Chair