

MINUTES
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
February 6, 2020
RE-ORGANIZATION & REGULAR MEETING

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Notice of this meeting appeared in The New Jersey Herald and The New Jersey Sunday Herald in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE

ATTENDANCE: In attendance was Ruth Campo, Mike Dolan, Dana French, Sam Castimore, Steve Leenher, Buzz Tomasino and Bob Canace.

Re-organization

Chair – Mike Dolan

Vice-Chair – Ruth Campo

Conservation Advising – Bob Canace – Report

Public Comment –

A motion was made by French to open to public comment, seconded by Tomasino. All in favor. Motion carried.

Faith Healy, Secretary Park's Commission Board. Ms. Healy appeared and asked the Open Space Committee for their consideration on helping to fund future needs at the Frankford Park. In 2015-2016 this the Committee funded the new field at Frankford Park, which has been used by many and greatly appreciated. Currently they are in need of assistance to fund Field #9's irrigation. She mentioned that this is needed as the next step to enhance and preserve the space. Ms. Healy mentioned that there was investment of close to \$15,000.00 in a new well. That expense along with a 2nd well which was needed at 167 Gunn Road (rental home), set them back significantly. Ms. Healy stated that the Committee is working with Art Pierson, who is also a member of the Park Commission Board, to inquire about the specific equipment and materials that would be needed with a breakdown of pricing. They are waiting on his formal quote, but he estimates that the cost would be between \$20,000.00 - \$25,000.00. Ms. Healy was told that the committee welcomes Parks input and we have been a partner with them for years. Suggested more than one irrigation bid needs to be obtained and they also need to pursue alternative funding. Castimore also suggested they coordinate with the Committee during the budget workshops. We expect Parks participation going forward.

A motion was made by French to close from public comment, seconded by Leenher. All in favor. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes -

A motion was made by Leenher to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting, seconded by Campo. All in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation Advising - BOB CANACE – Report

- Recreation Plan Update – Has been completed and approved and adopted by the Land Use Board;
- SADC grant process in development;
- Drybrook mowing/herbicide bid tabled pending additional bids, as Ayers is soliciting;
- Trails Grant – Spoke of the interest in extending the trails, or around the area of Field #9. There are grants opportunities from the county for trails, so we may want to take advantage of that, this is something that came up in the Open Space up-date discussions, and something that the Park Commission mentioned; Mr. Dolan mentioned that he would like to hear that this is something on the Park Commission’s priority list.
- Mr. Dolan posed the question of a discussion at last meeting about having a better focus on Open Space preservation as opposed to Farmland Preservation, because Farmland Preservation has become so technical and difficult.
- Reservoir – First priority is to get water rights or access easement to irrigate the park. Is there a formal contract or easement or covenant of agreement with Branchville that allows you to irrigate the park?
- Conversation on County stewardship grants stalled because draft application/guidelines have not been formalized by the County.

Correspondence:

- Conservation Advising Services proposal; accepted to be retroactive from January 3, 2020;
- Invoice dated 2/1/20;

A motion was made by Campo to approve invoice of Conservation Advising Services dated 2/1/20, seconded by French. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Discussion regarding need to meet monthly, quarterly, etc. Decision should be made at the end of each meeting so as to abide by advertising requirements. March meeting will remain on schedule.

Wallkill Refuse – Papakating Trail – Lewisburg Road in Wantage to Northrup Road in Frankford. Mr. Dolan mentioned that he not aware of any visible progress.

Drybrook – Any progress on native grasses? - Tabled until March.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by French to adjourn, seconded by Leenher. All in favor. Motion carried.