

MINUTES
OPENC SPACE COMMITTEE
June 4, 2020
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

Meeting was held remotely, and present were:

R. Michael Dolan, Ed Risdon, Buzz Tomasino, Jim Ayers, Bob Canace, and Sam Castimore.

Conservation Advising - BOB CANACE – Report

- Carriage House Farm – (Donald Williams – Block 19/Lot 8 – 44 Acres; 39 net to be preserved) – The project finally closed after several years and will be preserved.
- Tony Grande (Block 44/Lots 4 & 5) – Appraisal came back at about \$4,500. Per acre, Mr. Grande accepted the offer and the project is moving forward. Bob Canace mentioned that he is not sure when the closing will take place, and report back with updates.

Farmland Targets – Sam Castimore (Block 12/Lot 2.01 – 58.78 acres) – Bob Canace will proceed and report back to the Committee.

OPEN SPACE

- Dry Brook Preserve – Farmer Jeff, who currently has a lease on the property, is to make improvements to the trails, move some earth, uproot and burn invasive species at no charge on 6 acres if his lease is renewed. Some discussion ensues regarding compliance with the Farmland Plan (specific native grasses, etc.) and Mr. Risdon and Mr. Ayers will contact Jeff to obtain details needed to write a contract extension.
- Town Park Lease – Committee reported that George Chidley of NJDEP has performed an inspection and awaiting his reply. Bob Canace was unaware of the inspection, and mentioned that Mr. Chidley has been unresponsive to his e-mails.
- Scandia Spa (Richard Ruben) – There is not a landfill closure letter on file, and the Committee feels that this is a dead issue and no further action is expected.

MINUTES:

Approve Minutes of the February 6, 2020 Re-Organization and Regular Meetings.

A motion was made by Tomasino to approve Minutes of February 6, 2020, seconded by Dolan. All in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Sussex County Division of Planning and Economic Development – From: Autumn M. Sylvester, P.P., Principal Planner – Re: Update to County Farmland Preservation Incentive Grant – 9/16/19 - Tabled

OLD BUSINESS

- Open Space Plan and Recreation Plan Update 2019 – No action taken.
- Wallkill Refuge – Rail Trail – Need to provide them with a written update to their Papakating Trail Plan from Lewisburg Road (Wantage) to Northrup Road (Frankford). The Committee suggests they be invited to a meeting when restrictions are lifted.
- Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation (Culver Lake Golf Course) – The GCLWCF has a contract to purchase the golf course property with no improvements, the appraisal estimated at \$6k-7k an acre. The Committee is considering a contribution of approximately 15% of the appraised value to preserve the land as open space, somewhere in the \$50-75k range. The Township Committee will entertain a proposal from the Foundation with the understanding that the Open Space committee considers this project worthy of their consideration.

INVOICES

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Ed Risdon to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Ayers. All in favor. Motion carried.