

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Prepared by Katherine Fullerton, Open Space Coordinator

Open Space Coordinator Katherine Fullerton called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and took the roll call. In attendance were: Larry Coffey, Emy Drew, Joshua Goldman, Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, Josh Petruchelli, and Rosalind Westlake.

Ms. Fullerton introduced the new Committee members. It was noted that the Committee is missing a Recreation Committee alternate representative. Ms. Fullerton began the Open Space Committee Reorganization by asking for any nominations for Chair of the Open Space Committee. Member Coffey nominated Member Westlake as the Chair and Member Lockwood 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 Lockwood seconded this nomination. The nominations were closed and all approved Member Coffey as Vice Chair. Member Lockwood moved that the Open Space Committee should meet at 7:30pm on the Third Monday of each month for this year. All members voted in favor for this motion.

Member Coffey made a motion to approve the November 18, 2019 meeting minutes and Member Lockwood seconded the motion. All voted in favor, except Members Goldman, Drew, Katz, and Petruchelli who abstained.

Member Goldman made a motion to approve the December 16, 2019 meeting minutes and Member Lockwood seconded the motion. All voted in favor, except Members Coffey, Drew, Katz, and Petruchelli who abstained.

Update of Existing Applications

The OS Committee received an update on the following applications:

- Maresca –
There is not much update since December, when the SADC began an independent Title Search of the adjacent lots to determine if there is any previous access to the cemetery. This research is continuing.
- Lee/Lau – This application is tabled until April, when the Lee/Lau family has returned from Hong Kong.
- Cizek – Closing is anticipated in March. There is an Agreement document that D&R Greenway sent for the Township approval and signature that is part of the Green Acres funding procedure. This Agreement document will be discussed at the Township Committee meeting next week for the Mayor's signature.

- Curtis Farm – NJCF made an application to the County Open Space Advisory Committee for funds to pay for half of the preservation of the Curtis Farm. This application went to the January meeting of the COSAC and was received warmly. Member Goldman updated the Delaware Open Space Committee on the application review at the meeting. Approval was granted based on the ability for NJCF to create a horse trail easement and access for the trail. NJCF will need to return with the easement at which time the County Open Space Advisory Committee will grant full approval. It was noted that it could be beneficial for Delaware residents to attend the meeting when NJCF returns in order to show the strength of interest in preserving this property.
- Herrman Farm – Block 17 Lot 20. The applicant is working on access to the property and is anticipated to make an application to the Planning Board to change the lot lines to provide access to the property.

New Applications/Updates

There are no new applications.

In December, Diane McDaniels, the Township CFO, requested that the Committee review the Open Space expenses and sent a spreadsheet showing the Open Space Trust Fund over the course of the next 20 years, with the anticipated income and expenses. Coordinator Fullerton reviewed the Target list of properties to be preserved and created potential expenses based on the anticipated values of the development easement. These values were plugged into the CFO's spreadsheet of expenses to project the potential Open Space Preservation expenses over the next 20 years. The Chair Westlake moved and Member Coffey seconded sending this document to the CFO for her use in anticipating Open Space Preservation expenses in the future. All in favor.

The Committee reviewed an offer from Diane McDaniels, the Township CFO, for the Committee to review bills and invoices for Open Space expenses.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman provided an update from the County Open Space Advisory Committee. Clinton is renovating the park near the library. Parks are becoming a priority for the County, as per the Open Space Plan that was released last year. There are some new pole barns planned, so the County can expand summer programs.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Member Smotrich was not available to provide an Open Space and Recreation Plan update. Chair Westlake reported that the Recreation Committee is working on the Plan.

Committee Comments

Coordinator Fullerton reported that she has begun to work on updating the Farmland Preservation Plan. Once the document is fully digitized and the tables are readable, she will send it around to Committee members for comments.

Member Lockwood reminded members that the NJCF Rally is scheduled for March 20. The Early Bird rate will end next week. It is at a different location this year, but not far from New Brunswick.

Coordinator Fullerton updated the Committee on the SADC and the Special Occasion Event legislation pending at the State House. Chair Westlake commented that there need to be appropriate municipal ordinances regarding health and safety for special events on preserved farms. It was noted that any SADC regulations will not cover exception areas on preserved farms. Exception areas are regulated by the municipality. There was a discussion of the impacts of Special Occasion Events on the Township and the benefit of the Planning Board reviewing any relevant ordinances.

Member Coffey made a motion to approve the cost of the \$85 registration fee for the NJCF Rally. Member Goldman seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken and all were in favor.

Chairperson Westlake and opened the meeting to the public.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:30pm.