

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes
Monday, October 19, 2020
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 Chairperson Rosalind Westlake called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Open Space Coordinator Katherine Fullerton took the roll call. In attendance were: Larry Coffey, Emy Drew, Joshua Goldman, Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, Steven Smotrich, and Rosalind Westlake.

Member Lockwood made a motion to approve the September 21, 2020 meeting minutes and Member Katz seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Update of Existing Applications

The OS Committee received an update on the following applications:

- Maresca –
The application is in the same place as last month. SADC is finalizing the survey to make sure the easements are correct.
- Lee/Lau –
The survey is being finalized with SADC specifications regarding a County easement. Otherwise the survey is complete and the rest of the closing documents can be prepared.

- Curtis Farm –
SADC has approved preliminary approval for all non-profit grant applications. We will wait to hear more from SADC.
- The Yerk property along Sergeantsville Road is still being considered for preservation. Coordinator Fullerton has spoken to Hunterdon Land Trust about the application and the Darling property, and HLT is very interested in finding a solution to this preservation effort.
- There is a property up for sale that is approximately 25 acres that the SADC coordinator noticed and thought would be a good preservation site. The County has agreed that it could be a good preservation site.
- It was also noticed that Block 60 Lot 9.04 is on the market. This property is on the Township Target list. Through discussing the property, Committee members recalled that this property applied for preservation previously, but there was some reason that the property was limited in development potential.

Discussion of Open Improvement and Maintenance Plan

The Recreation Commission has a final version that will be reviewed at the November meeting. After that meeting, it will be sent to Coordinator Fullerton to be sent to the Township Committee for approval. Then it can be sent to the County. The Recreation Commission has worded the goals in a general manner so that the Township is not locked into certain projects, if something else comes up.

Discussion of Farmland Preservation Plan

Coordinator Fullerton announced that the tables from the County have been received, so all the tables have been completed. There may be other bits of data that need to be collected, but the major tables have been collected and revised on the most current draft. The Committee granted approval to Coordinator Fullerton to make administrative changes to the document and bring substantive changes to the Committee.

Discussion of SADC 2022 Planning Incentive Grant Application

Coordinator Fullerton explained the changes to the Municipal PIG program that requires that the Agricultural Advisory Committee approve the application for funding, as well as the Township Committee approve a Resolution of Support. It was suggested that the Open Space Committee should make a motion recommending that the Township Committee approve the Resolution. Member Coffey made a motion to approve the application for 2022 funding being sent to SADC and to recommend that the Township Committee approve the Resolution of Support. Member Goldman seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Larry Coffey: Yes, Emy Drew: Yes, Joshua Goldman: Yes, Kathy Katz: Yes, Susan Lockwood: Yes, Steven Smotrich: Yes, and Rosalind Westlake: Yes.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman reported that he was not able to attend the September meeting. The Committee was going to discuss the roof replacement for a facility in Alexandria. Hunterdon Land Trust applied for a grant to preserve a 70-acre property in Holland Township. It is a very nice property along the river. It would allow public river access.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Member Smotrich had nothing further to report on from the Recreation Commission, since the Commission is focused on the Improvement and Maintenance Plan.

Comments from the Committee

Member Coffey stated that there is a rumor that the Curtis farm is not moving along for preservation. It looks like they are rehabbing the house, and new signs have been placed on the property, which has started rumors that the property is not being preserved. Coordinator Fullerton will check with NJCF to make sure that the application is moving along properly.

Member Goldman asked about the use of the Open Space Trust Fund for maintenance funds. Member Lockwood reported on her experience at the Township Committee when she related to the Township Committee that the Open Space Committee recommended using the County funds for maintenance funds, as needed. It was noted that the Township Attorney stated that the bonds did not limit the use of the funds, and one of the Township Committee members stated an interest in continuing the referendum next year and using the Open Space Trust Fund for maintenance projects. It was suggested that this committee should work on educating Township residents on the purpose of preservation and the use of the Open Space Trust Fund. It was also noted as part of this education that Dilts Park needs to be separated from Open Space.

Member Katz reminded the committee that she has documents from a 2007-2008 outreach program on preservation with a powerpoint presentation and other materials. These could be useful as part of a new educational program. She also asked about the inclusion of the White Oak Trail in the Improvement and Maintenance Plan. Member Smotrich confirmed that the Plan is broad enough to include the White Oak Trail for any maintenance projects.

There were members of the public, so the Chair closed the meeting to the public.

Member Goldman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Smotrich seconded the motion. The meeting ended at approximately 8:15 pm.