

## **Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes**

**Monday, April 19, 2021**

Prepared by Rosalind Westlake, Open Space Chair

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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. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Westlake and then she took the roll call. In attendance were: Larry Coffey, Joshua Goldman, Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, ~~Josh Petrucci~~, Steven Smotrich, Rosalind Westlake. Chair Westlake noted for the record that Member Emy Drew had resigned from the Committee due to other commitments.

The Committee reviewed the February 16, 2021 and March 15, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Member Coffey to adopt the February minutes and the motion was seconded by Member Smotrich. All voted in favor except for Member Katz who abstained. A motion was made by Member Coffey to adopt the March minutes and the motion was seconded by Member Goldman. All voted in favor.

### **Update of Existing Applications**

The OS Committee received an update from Chair Westlake on the following applications:

- Lee/Lau – This property is purportedly scheduled for closing on April 26, 2021.
- Curtis Farm – This property is scheduled to close soon by NJCF with the County holding the easement. There is no Township involvement.

- 28 Yard Road and the property of Ken Johnson are on the OSC's radar and both matters have been referred over to Bob Hornby at the County to begin discussions.

### **County Open Space Committee Update**

Member Goldman announced that Highbridge applied for a PIG to cover debt service and the Hunterdon Peddlers gave a presentation of bicycle wheelchairs and funding for access.

### **Comments from the Committee**

Chair Westlake noted that Ms. Cizek had approached her regarding providing a done acknowledgment form from the IRS to allow for a partial charitable deduction for the land preservation. Chair Westlake referred Ms. Cizek to the Township Committee. Chair Westlake also advised that she had received no response of any kind from Member Petruchelli in response to either of the two emails asking if he wished to continue as a Member. The Committee members discussed the need to add one or possibly two members for the OSC. Member Goldman advised he would put the word out on Facebook; Member Lockwood advised she would post the volunteer opening in the Newsletter; Chair Westlake advised she would reach out to the Township Clerk to find out if there were any existing applications for volunteer positions and to request that a post be placed on the Township website. Member Goldman also advised that he would connect Karen Peklak to Chair Westlake for consideration. Chair Westlake agreed that upon receiving a communication from Ms. Peklak, she would refer her to the Township Clerk for an application.

Member Lockwood advised that she had received a request from a citizen for a final draft of the Farmland Preservation Plan. The members discussed the status of the Farmland Preservation Plan and agreed that it was not in final form as yet. Member Katz suggest that Member Lockwood refer the citizen to Kathy Klink to request a copy of the 2010 Plan which was amended in December 2011.

Member Smotrich advised that the Recreation Commission was looking into the possibility of mowing the perimeter of the Reimer property to provide a walking path and to connect preserved properties. The members all agreed that sounded like a good idea.

### **Review and Discussion of Applications for Open Space Coordinator**

Chair Westlake advised that two applications had been submitted: Tiffany Crivelli and Kathy Katz. Because Kathy Katz is a member of the OSC, Chair Westlake asked Ms. Katz to recuse herself from the discussion and to leave the meeting. Member Katz signed off the meeting.

Thereafter the members reviewed and discussed each cover letter and resume. It was agreed that no interviews were necessary as the two candidates were well known to all Members. The members were impressed with both Ms. Crivelli's and Ms. Katz's resumes and their enthusiasm and interest in the position as expressed in their respective cover letters. Chair Westlake asked each member to share their thoughts regarding the candidates and their ability to handle to tasks and responsibilities of the position. All of the members noted that Ms. Crivelli was clearly a valued employee and an excellent learner but expressed concern that she did not have any specific experience in the field of land preservation. All of the members expressed concern that the learning curve would set the OSC goals significantly behind, especially in light of the potential properties up for review. All of the members noted that Ms. Katz has extensive experience in the field of land preservation and would

be best suited to “hit the ground running” in the position of Open Space Coordinator and to make a smooth transition into the position. Member Coffey made a motion that the OSC recommend to the Township Committee that Ms. Katz be considered for the position of Open Space Coordinator. Member Smotrich seconded the motion. Members Coffey, Goldman, Smotrich and Westlake voted in favor; Member Lockwood abstained.

**Meeting Open to the Public**

There were no members of the public present, 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 8:30 pm.