

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes
Monday, June 21, 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.

The Committee reviewed the May 17, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Member Coffey to adopt the May 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 advising that there were presently no pending applications. Chair Westlake noted that she had had a discussion with NJCF during which a number of properties were identified as targets for consideration, including Pavlica, Gugliotta, Toll, Chaban, Siecke/Somner, Henderson and Costabile.

Open Space Coordinator Position

Chair Westlake advised that the Township still had not approved the application of proposed member Peklak and the decision to hire an Open Space Coordinator continued to be on hold. Chair Westlake also advised that she had reiterated her significant concern to the Mayor and other committee

members that this position needed to be filled as soon as possible. Member Lockwood advised that she has reminded the Township about approving Member Peklak's application.

Review of OSC Concerns Regarding Use of OSC Funds for Dilts Park

Chair Westlake advised that she had submitted OPRA request to Township for copies of all documentation related to OSC Bonds. Chair Westlake advised that she had received a detailed response from the CFO and Twp. Attorney confirming that the bond was a general municipal bond and does not require fiduciary approval to change the original purposes for the funds. Chair Westlake advised that she had done some independent research and concluded that the CFO and Twp. Attorney's statements were accurate.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman advised that County approved acquisition by Hunterdon Land Trust of Eden Land Holdings property on Route 523 in Raritan Township.

Comments from the Committee

Chair Westlake noted that Member Petrochelli had not attended any meetings since July of 2020 and asked Committee Members for their thoughts about removal. Per Member Katz, there is a state law regarding attendance requirements for committees and suggested contacting Kathy Klink for more information.

Member Smotrich advised that there was one property owner adjacent to the Reimer property complaining about the walking trail that had been created. The Recreation Commission was planning to meet with the property owner to discuss.

Member Katz advised that there was a special meeting of the Township Committee scheduled for June 29, 2021 to discuss the Mayor's proposed referendum to utilize up to 50% of OSC funds for other purposes such as maintenance of Dilts Park and other open space. Member Katz raised the question as to whether the OSC could formally oppose the proposed referendum and encouraged attendance at the special meeting. Member Katz also noted that the form of the proposed referendum appeared to copied from a similar referendum in Clinton Township and the County.

Meeting Open to the Public

There were no members of the public present, so the Chair closed the meeting to the public.

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