

Delaware Township Open Space Committee Minutes
Monday, September 20, 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: Joshua Goldman, Kathy Katz, Susan Lockwood, Steven Smotrich, Rosalind Westlake.

The Committee reviewed the June 21, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Member Smotrich to adopt the June minutes and the motion was seconded by Member Goldman. All voted in favor. The Committee reviewed the July 19, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Member Goldman to adopt the July minutes and the motion was seconded by Member Katz. All voted in favor.

Update of Existing Applications

Chair Westlake advised that there were presently no pending applications.

Open Space Coordinator Position

Chair Westlake advised that the Township was looking at the possibility of having a joint coordinator position with East Amwell Township. Member Lockwood advised that the Township subcommittee for personnel was setting up interviews with possible candidates.

County Open Space Committee Update

Member Goldman advised that County has not met since the last meeting.

Comments from the Committee

Chair Westlake advised that as a result of Hurricane Ida, there had been considerable damage to preserved and privately owned properties along the Wicklicheoke Creek and inquired if the OSC thought it would be of interest to explore options for preserving and acquiring the privately owned properties that had been damaged. Chair Westlake also noted that the OSC could acquire land as part of the Climate Change element of the Master Plan update.

Member Goldman advised that there were two properties that he was aware of on Worman Road that were in the process of exploring funds from the NJ Blue Acres fund, the NJ Risk Management fund, and FEMA. Member Goldman advised that these are all programs that partner with Townships, Counties and non-profit organizations to own and manage flood plain properties with matching funds and to also purchase and remove structures on such properties with no specific restoration. Member Westlake agreed to reach out to NJCF and to the Township Committee to advise that the OSC was in support of such projects.

Member Lockwood advised that PennEast had announced its intention to withdraw the NJ condemnation case without prejudice but noted that a withdrawal without prejudice does not preclude PennEast from refiling those cases in the future. Member Lockwood suggested contacting the Kohlers about moving ahead again with preserving their land and suggested reaching out to them as soon as possible. Member Lockwood suggested contacting R. Hornby, K. Fullerton and the SADC to confirm NJ's position on moving forward with applications for properties no longer subject to condemnation.

Member Katz advised that the Environmental Commission was looking at various pervious surfaces for use on Dilts Park trails. Member Katz advised that the Environmental Commission would coordinate with the Recreation Commission and suggested that a representative from the Environmental Commission attend Recreation Commission meetings.

Member Smotrich, as the liaison from the Recreation Commission noted that such pervious surfaces could be used on the Reimer path. Member Smotrich advised that the Recreation Commission should coordinate with the Environmental Commission and Shade Tree Commission.

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 8:05 pm.