

BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES, AUGUST 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. Present were Chairman Ray Bonker, Joe Sabatini, Caryn Segal, Bill Schilling, Andy Kimm, Scott Olson, Open Space Advisor Sandy Urgo from The Land Conservancy of NJ, and Secretary Margaret McGarrity.

Closed session: 7:35 p.m.

Open session: 8:30 p.m.

Correspondence and updates:

Ron Farr to finish blazing Arnell-Owners Maintenance boundaries by end of August. Margaret will check on the timeline to blaze Beckmann. Problem—NJDEP GA survey guidelines only require two concrete monuments per parcel; the rest can be pipes, piles of rocks, markings on rock. Two such corner markers on Arnell and OM are missing and Ron has had to spend extra time to relocate them. Should Byram require monumenting of all corners?

June 14 minutes approved: motion by Scott; second by Caryn; unanimous.

Business:

Update of Open Space and Recreation Plan: Caryn, Ray and Joe will be present on August 19 at 6:30 p.m. to meet with Eugene Reynolds of The Land Conservancy of NJ before the 7:30 p.m. joint Planning Board and Open Space Committee. There is no need for the entire OS Committee to be there at 6:30 p.m. or to attend the 7:30 session. Margaret will ask Eugene to email the draft updated maps by the end of the day on August 17 for review.

Although the Committee was expecting to have draft updated text and maps for tonight and for the 19th, Eugene does not expect to have text until September 30. Then the maps and text will be reviewed by all boards—Margaret will email the project timeline to all. There were no comments from the OS Committee on the agenda for the 19th and brief text sections provided for tonight's meeting.

The Committee will also discuss adopting new names for the municipal OS parcels, which are now called after their former owners. TLC-NJ sent a list of the names they propose. In our revised OS/Recreation Plan, use the new names and then “formerly known as...” with the prior owners' names.

Financial report: Joe reported that the local open space trust fund now contains \$483,066 (before payment of Heitman costs of about \$13,000 and other miscellaneous bills of about \$500). Other

costs soon to be paid include soft costs for Buis (the town is to pay up to \$10,000, after the 50% reimbursement from NJDEP GA) and a debt payment in the fall. The reserve for debt service, which cannot be used for anything else, now totals \$597,218.

Joe is also asking Township Engineer Cory Stoner to propose a Professional Services Agreement for further work on the Jones Lane sports fields development; the OS Committee has voted to recommend a PSA of up to \$5,000.

We will also be obtaining our 50% NJDEP GA reimbursement for soft costs (including demolition costs for the Jones Lane buildings) on the Hudson Farm Greenway.

The Committee may want Ron Farr to do carry out more tasks from the Forest Stewardship Plan. Margaret will call him for recommendations to discuss at the next OS meeting.

Scott noted that residents near the One Main Street (North Byram Woods) OS parcel are extending their backyards into the preserved parcel. Could OS trust fund money be used to blaze the North Byram Woods boundary? Or is this money properly used only for parcels purchased with the OS trust fund? Margaret will find the survey of this OS parcel (within the One Main Street Planning Board file). The Committee will review the ordinance regarding uses of the OS trust fund; amend it to allow OS trust fund to be used on all OS parcels? Some unforeseen consequences of this?

Hudson Farm Greenway: The sale agreement requires the owner of the eased parcels to provide a land and trail management plan, to be updated every five years—when is the first plan due? NJ Conservation Foundation is not yet involved. Who will oversee this plan—the OS or Recreation Committee, the Environmental Commission?

Township Engineer Cory Stoner is to submit a grant to establish a trail on the Greenway, connecting to trails on the Beckmann and Kostrey OS parcels.

East Brookwood/Vetter Park grant application: This application is on hold while the Township considers issues raised by the East Brookwood water company, which sent a letter to the NJDEP grant office objecting to some aspects of the application (particularly, providing parking spaces for the park/trail). Under the Clean Water Act, the water company is charged with controlling a 50-foot circumference around their wellhead (in the middle of the park entrance) to prevent potential contamination. Joe asked NJDEP to clarify these issues but has no firm information yet.

Grant awards are announced in late September, so we probably will not get the grant, unless we can find another access to the 4 acres (the Vetter parcel) in the back where the trail and stream access point would be.

Margaret will re-check as to whether grant guidelines absolutely require parking.

Adjourn: 9:10 p.m. on a motion by Scott.