

BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES, OCTOBER 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Ray Bonker, Scott Olson, Joe Sabatini, Bill Schilling, Andy Kimm, John Morytko, consultants Ben Spinelli, Frank Pinto and Doris Flynn.

Closed Session 7:31 p.m. (see separate minutes)

Open Session 7:52 p.m.

Approval of August 8th minutes- Scott made a motion, seconded by John to approve the closed and open minutes for both dates. All in favor.

Open Space Financial Report – Joe reported that there is \$418,220.59 in the local open space trust fund. In the reserve for debt service there is \$388,561.77. We have a Planning Incentive Grant balance of \$415,162.

Award of Well Study – A well study will be done at Tamarack Park within the next couple months to determine the best location for a well.

Tamarack Park

- Reforestation plan has been completed. We will be accepting the project at the next council meeting. Township has been fertilizing and it's in very good shape.
- The gates have been installed at Tamarack Park but someone backed into one of them. A police report has been filed and the gate will be repaired. We received the sign and it will be installed at the entrance of the park in the next few weeks.
- The Recreation Dept. received a \$2,500 grant for walking and hiking. We have reserved \$1500 for a grand opening of the park, which will consist of a point to point hike, ribbon cutting, and a barbeque. We anticipate doing this in the spring.
- Spinelli & Pinto are working on a draft press release about the park and will have it for review prior to the December meeting. The Open Space Committee would like to see this sent out prior to the park opening.
- Involve Environmental Commission and Recreation Committee with the Open Space Committee for the grand opening.
- Irrigation piping was put in when the park was constructed. The well study has been completed and 2 sites have been recommended for a new well. Green Acres required that the well be capped, which will cost \$3,000. The drilling of a new well could cost anywhere from \$50,000-\$100,000 depending on the capacity of the new well and the possible necessity of an irrigation storage tank.
- The committee agreed to recommend capping the well and to hold off on drilling a well until we had a more specific scope of work from the engineer.

RFP – Forester

- The RFP is ready to go except there are a few typos.

- Spinelli and Pinto will work with Doris to get the RFP out. We will give approximately 30 days for a response. Spinelli and Pinto will review the submittals and review with OS committee in December. Then they will set up interviews, and the committee may want to have a special meeting in January for interviews.

Byram Committee Chair Meeting

- Ray stated that it was a great meeting and well attended by all the committee reps. He spoke about Tamarack Park and Open Space in general. People shared ideas and gave input about their committee. Scott stated that it is a way to improve communication between the committees, which is needed.

Correspondence and Updates

- The Highlands Open Space Partnership Program Application was submitted by Spinelli & Pinto.
- Scott Olson reported that a resident suggested using open space funds for improvements to COJ, such as work on the field house. Open Space funds can only be used on parcels that were purchased with open space funds, and that does not include COJ park.
- Joe stated that a resident complained that the Johnson dam needs repair. The Township is required to do a formal report every 5 years. An informal report is done each year. Scott reported that he visited the dam and stated that it looked fine. Right now, it is not in need of repair.

New Business

- Scott asked how many hunting permits have been applied for. Doris stated that this year there has been approximately 15 permits, which is the most we have ever had.
- Scott reported on the N.J. Future's meeting that was held on September 29. Byram has been selected as a Pilot town in the Highlands. Rutgers has visited several sites in Byram that could benefit from green infrastructure improvements and is preparing a Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study. One of the sites listed is COJohnson field. Once the study is finalized, Rutgers will provide engineering plans for one of the projects.

Open to the Public : No comments

Adjourn: 9:02 p.m. Motion by Scott, second by John. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.