

BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES, JUNE 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. Present were Chairman Ray Bonker, Joseph Sabatini, Caryn Segal, Scott Olson, and Secretary Cindy Church. Also present was Sandy Urgo, from The Land Conservancy of New Jersey,

Closed Session 7:37 p.m. (see separate minutes)

Open session 8:01:

Approval of April 2011 minutes: Scott made a motion to approve and was seconded by Joe; Caryn Segal abstained, all in favor. April 2011 minutes approved.

Business:

Financial Report – Joe reported that there is \$552,727.51 in the local open space trust fund. In the reserve for debt service there is \$541,428.80.

Green Acres Reimbursement Requests – Hudson Farm Greenway reimbursement will be held up until they see a trail plan. A check for \$10,425 is to be sent to the Township for the reimbursement for the Buis property.

Hudson Farm Green Way (Tamarack Park) Trail Plan – Sandy will send a draft plan to Joe by the end of June.

Open Federal Trail Grants– Two grants open to finish trails/parks/kiosks on Arnell / Owners Maintenance (Briar Ridge Park) and Beckman (Cranberry Overlook) and to repair the next section of Sussex Branch Trail. Margaret is managing these with Township Engineer Cory Stoner.

Tamarack Park (Byram Athletic Fields at Jones Lane) – Cory submitted the pre application to the Highlands Council but a meeting seems unlikely before the end of June. Cory placed another call today and is waiting on status. Joe will speak with Cory to have him move this along.

Forestry plans: Under the Community Forestry Plan – Ron Farr is finishing up the hazardous tree survey; he has completed Cranberry Lake and adjacent neighborhoods, Brookwood Road, Brookwood Drive, Forest Lakes, Johnson Lakes and adjacent areas, Neil Gylling Park. Areas not yet completed include: Lake Lackawanna, Roseville, Amity, Tamarack Road, and Lake

Mohawk. He visited the Arnell parcel again (part of Briar Ridge Park) and could not locate the final corner. Invasive Species removal will begin in June. One hundred and fifty trees have been planted on the Beckmann parcel, with the remainder being planted within the next week.

Annual Re-Organization (6 month re-appointments) - Ray and Daven are up for reappointment. Ray sent in his request for reappointment to Doris. We are still waiting to hear from Daven. The Open Space meeting dates for the remainder of 2011 are: August 8th, October 11th, and December 12th.

PSA – Farr Forestry Services – Approved by the Council at the April 14, 2011 meeting.

New Jersey Natural Land Trust – NJ Natural Lands Trust will consider buying Block 231 Lot 12 at 16 Lake Drive West.

Foreclosure Properties – Memo from Sandy Uργο:

- The Township has provided TLC-NJ with a list of properties that can be foreclosed based on non-payment of taxes.
 - Updates of this list will be provided as necessary, by the Township.
- TLC-NJ will provide a spreadsheet of the properties, and mapping where appropriate which the Township can utilize to make determinations about prioritization and disposition of the properties.
 - TLC-NJ will provide recommendations, particularly in regards to properties that may be appropriate to offer to the Green Acres program for a sale for conservation, or for retention by the Township for park or conservation purposes (“conservation properties”).
 - The Township will advise TLC-NJ as to any properties that it decides will be processed as conservation properties.
 - TLC-NJ will follow-up with the Township / the Township will notify TLC-NJ when foreclosure of a conservation property becomes final.
 - For properties being processed for conservation, TLC-NJ will assist with either an Offer to Sell to Green Acres, or listing on the ROSI.
 - David Soloway will confirm that the Township may access funding from its Open Space Trust to cover foreclosure expenses for conservation properties.
- TLC-NJ will *not* approach property owners that are in arrears on their taxes for donations of land.
- If TLC-NJ is contacted by the owner of a property in the Township about a sale or a donation of land, we will make it clear that if the Township were interested – one condition of any possible transaction would be that the taxes be paid in full prior to closing.
- For the August OS meeting the spreadsheet will be completed with recommendation column.

Tamarack Park Access – The Recreation Committee wants to identify an area where people can launch boats. Joe will ask Township Attorney Tom Collins about the easement and the Township's access to the lake.

Mohawk View Foreclosures – These parcels was set aside as open space when the subdivision was approved; but, since the homeowners association never came into existence, Joe questioned how to proceed with the foreclosure process. Joe and Sandy will set up a conference call with Tom Collins to discuss the best options.

Adjourn: 9:38 p.m. Motion by Scott; second by Joe.