

BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES, October 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Ray Bonker, Scott Olson, Joe Sabatini, , William Schilling, Andy Kimm, Michelle Rehse, Sandy Uργο of TLC, and Ron Farr from Farr Forestry.

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

Open Session

Forester Update – Ron Farr from Farr Forestry Services attended the meeting, reviewed and discussed the draft version of the Forest Stewardship Plan. The deer management plan was discussed and Ray questioned Ron on how many deer need to be harvested to make a difference in the population. Ron Farr said that to start you would want to get it down to 10 deer per square mile. Joe said that with bow hunting alone we will never get to those numbers. Ron said he does not recommend stopping the program all together. Scott asked what other Towns have done to incentivize bow hunting on small parcels and is there anyone who is doing it successfully. Ron said that we are the only ones at this time.

Andy mentioned that there are fallen trees on the Arnell property that came down during Hurricane Sandy. He asked if there is any way to harvest them, or is there enough to harvest on all the open space parcels. Ron said that there are, on some of the parcels. Joe said that the challenge to harvesting the trees is the accessibility to the parcels, and the cost involved. Ron said that there is a decent amount of accessible timber located across from the soccer fields. It is close to some homes, so he does not know if the neighbors would be in favor of such an operation.

The Arnell parcel is 99% complete. There is one boundary marker on Arnell that has not been located.

One side of Owners Maintenance has been marked. The other markers have not been found.

There were no issues or discussions on the rest of the drafted Forest Stewardship Plan.

Ron will have the updates of the draft plan to the committee before the December 2014 Open Space Meeting.

Approval of August 2014 minutes- Scott made a motion, which was seconded by Bill; all in favor to approve the August 2014 minutes.

Open Space Financial Report – Joe reported that there is \$111,569.51 in the local open space trust fund. In the reserve for debt service there is \$359,032.38.

Trails Map - The trails map is now posted on the Township website.

Highlands Regional Master Plan Comments – Is being accepted through January 2014.

Hudson Farm Charity Hike – The Hudson Farm Charity Hike is scheduled for Saturday October 18, 2014, registration at 7:00 a.m. with hiking beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Tamarack Park – Joe reported that we will go out for bid over the winter with construction beginning in the spring of 2015. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of June 2015, with it being usable by the fall of 2016.

Environmental Commission Update – Michelle reported that the Environmental Commission is waiting for the sign at C.O. Johnson Field that was damaged during the hurricane to be completed. Brookwood park signs are done and waiting to be installed. The Environmental Commission is reaching out the NJ Trail Conference to see if the Township can get some help with the maintenance on some of the trails.

2015 Meeting Dates – Cindy submitted the 2015 meeting dates for review to the Open Space Committee.

Adjourn: 8:47 p.m. Motion by Scott.