

BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES, JUNE 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. Present were Chairman Ray Bonker, Scott Olson, Joe Sabatini, Bill Schilling, John Morytko Sandy Uργο of TLC and Doris Flynn. Michelle Rhese arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Closed Session 7:32 p.m. (see separate minutes)

Open Session 8:10 p.m.

Approval of April 11th minutes- Bill made a motion, seconded by Scott to approve the closed and open minutes for both dates. All in favor.

Open Space Financial Report – Joe reported that there is \$346,962 in the local open space trust fund. If we go forward with the potential acquisition, we will need to carefully budget moving forward until the fund is replenished. In the reserve for debt service there is \$360,218. The outstanding debt service balance is \$540,000. We have a Planning Incentive Grant balance of \$415,162.

Tamarack Park

- There will be a bid opening on Thursday, June 16 for tree planting/landscaping, which will be funded by the No Net Loss Grant Phase 1.
- Cory is getting ready to recommend acceptance of park. It is slightly possible the park could be used in the fall, but more likely it will be spring of 2017. Ray Bonker would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony to announce the opening of the park. Joe will work on getting a new sign, and the opening could be in September.
- Cory provided a memo detailing recommended activities for Tamarack Park. Joe would like to hold off on the parking lot for a season or two, because he doesn't feel it will get heavy use until 2017. The committee discussed moving forward with a hydrogeologic investigation to determine the best location for a new well, and capping the existing well. This is estimated at \$9,000, and the committee recommended that the Council authorize this work.

Joe informed the committee that the Township will need to close some fields in the fall because repairs need to be made—in particular, Mohawk View and COJ 8

Environmental Commission Update – There was trail clean up at Johnson Lake and Cranberry Overlook on April 30. Janet Meisner and Donna Koenig have been publicizing the 50 Miler Club, to get people out on the trails. There will be a nominal prize, such as a bumper sticker, for people who make this achievement.

Joe reported that we received an ANJEC grant to improve the trails section of the website. Joe met with a resident regarding an interactive mapping program. Once the website improvements have been made by Navitend, the resident will assist us in setting up the interactive google maps link.

Correspondence and Updates

- Joe sent a thank you letter to Barbara Davis for TLC's service to Byram. He also had a lengthy conversation with her and gave her another opportunity to submit a proposal to assist with maintenance of OS parcels. TLC decided not to because they felt it was too open-ended.
- Spinelli and Pinto's contract was shared with the committee. They will come on board on July 1. OS agreed that a subcommittee should meet with the new consultants in early July to get things started.
- Sussex County Open Space meeting at the County offices on June 23 at 7:30 p.m. Scott and Joe will attend. If Johnson decides to sell his property, we can make an application to the County Open Space.

New Business

- Scott informed OS that the Township is working with NJ Future as a pilot town. The township entered into a MOU to work with NJ Future on improving water filtration through natural means and the use of green infrastructure. They are funded by William Penn.
- Joe informed the OS committee about the plans for a new municipal complex. It will be presented to the public on June 21, and a bond ordinance will be introduced on July 5 with a public hearing on July 19. If the councils passes the bond ordinance, we would authorize the engineer and architect to move forward on 8/16.

Adjourn: 8:57 p.m. Motion by Scott, second by Bill. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.