

## OPEN SPACE MEETING – FEBRUARY 10, 2020

Members Present: Joseph Sabatini, Ray Bonker, Scott Olson, John Morytko, Earl Riley, Eric Duch, and Scott Yappen.  
Also present: Cynthia Church, Ben Spinelli, and Ron Farr

Joe Sabatini called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### Election of Chair:

Motion by Ray Bonker, second by Eric Duch to nominate Scott Olson as Chair of the Open Space Committee. All members in favor.

### Project Management:

#### **Ron Far Forest Management Plan/Activities List – Ron Farr**

Joe stated that there was a revised Forest Stewardship Plan / Activities list that was sent out with the agenda. Joe said that there has not been a resolution put before the Council approving the plan. The committee needs to make a recommendation. Upon review of the list Joe said that he would like the invasives listed as a lower priority on the list. He also said that the Ash Tree removal bids were not as successful as hoped, and because of that, it needs to be addressed. Joe is looking for a recommendation from Ron to come up with a better plan for the Deer Culling as the current plan had low results. Joe questioned about boundaries, as he thought that Glenside Woods and Cranberry Overlook were already delineated and marked. He is not sure what the \$3000 is providing without a survey.

Ron said that if you do not remove the invasive, they are just going to get worse.

Eric asked about doing a control burn. He also asked about the cost involved. Ron said it is about \$250 for 10 acres. Scott Yappen asked what the benefit are of doing it at Tamarack. Ron said it would help oak to regenerate. Joe asked how the control burn works and if the invasives would just come back. Ron said with one year of burn kills most of the invasives. Joe wants plans on how these tasks are going to be achieved. Eric asked if there was any interest in planting tree seedlings. Ray asked if we could do the controlled burn on the Tamarack piece near CO Johnson. Ron said that that is the area that he would like to do. Ray said all the proposals that came back for the Ash Tree removals were way above what was expected. Joe would like to know why the one of the proposals came in \$17,000 more than the other. Joe thinks we need to concentrate on the Ash Tree removal first while they are alive. There should be an understanding as to why the bids came in the way they did. Joe asked what Ron will do this time for \$1500 that will make it more successful. He needs for Ron to have a conversation with the contractors to find out why the bids failed, as well as reaching out to those who did not bid. Joe said that \$17,000 for 50 trees is a good deal. Ray said that there may not be a need to remove the cut trees that are in the woods. There is a need to remove the ones that are close to the parking lot. Joe said that Ron needs to come back with a proposal before June with a better plan for Deer Management. Earl asked about the current Deer Management Program. Scott Yappen asked about forming a local hunting club through the recreation program.

The Open Space Committee directed Ron Farr to do the following:

- Get in touch with NJCF to get a plan together, a hunting club and an open burn.
- Focus on Tamarack Park
- Go back out to the bidders and non-bidders to find out where they stand.
- Ron will come back with a revised proposal in April, on the three focused areas. The plan needs to be more expansive, as the Council will need to know what they are authorizing.

DEP Grant deadline is May 29, 2020. Joe said that before delineating and marking the boundaries of Forest South we should work on trying to get the DEP grant to pay for the survey on that. Joe would like Ron to put a plan together for the grant for Forest South.

## **Parks and Recreation Plan – Ben Spinelli**

Ben Spinelli reviewed the Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan and maps with the OS committee. He is looking for feedback from the committee. Ben gave a presentation of the plan. Greener by Design will be giving a presentation at the next Recreation Committee. He went into detail on the many impediments to putting in a Turf field at C.O. Johnson Park. These issues will be clarified when Green by Design gives their presentation at the Recreation Committee meeting. Ben discussed the options available to updating or replacing the Field House at C.O. Johnson Park.

Joe would like Ben to put together a schedule of the deliverables giving a timeline on when he needs feedback from the committee on the draft and maps. Ben will have a more complete plan ready for review to the Open Space committee by April. Ben would like to see the completed presentation done by June.

## **Parks Projects:**

**C.O. Johnson** – Playground equipment quotes were received to replace all playground equipment at C.O. Johnson field and Riverside Park.

**Cory Stoner walking path proposal** - Ray brought this up during the Council capital budget discussion because it was not currently listed. There was feedback from the survey for extending and upgrading the walking paths at C.O. Park.

**Tamarack Park** – with the gate being closed in winter, there are parking issues for those that are trying to access the trail. Joe said to resolve this problem the gates can remain open unless there is inclement weather.

**ATV Quad incident – June 20<sup>th</sup> – Police matter.** Eric Duch reported ATV's coming off Hunters Lane creating muddy holes on Tamarack Trail. Eric Duch said he had contacted the Police Department and that he has not received a response. Joe will request a meeting with the Chief on Tuesday morning.

## **OS Financial Status Report:**

- a. Open Space Trust Fund Balance: \$370,004.39*
- b. Reserve for Debt Service Balance: \$221,659.32*
- c. Outstanding Debt Service Balance: \$335,850.00*

**Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2019** – Motion by Ray Bonker, second by Eric Duch to approve minutes as amended, all in favor, Joe Sabatini abstained. Motion Carried.

## **Reports from Committees:**

**Environmental Commission** – Eric Duch mentioned the tree seedling program. This is not something that the Open Space Committee is interested in doing at this time. The Strike Team annual conference will be April 1<sup>st</sup> at Duke Farms. ANJEC grant is due at the beginning of April. Donna was going to reach out to Joe, he recommends resubmitting what was submitted last year with some modified changes. It is for \$1,500.00 for the removal of invasives.

**Recreation Committee** – No Report

**Council** – Ray reported on the Budget, the Municipal Building Options, the Capital Budget and the PBA press releases.  
**Planning Board** – John reported on the approval of the McDonald's LED menu board signs. There was an approval of a large garage. Wawa has made application. Tomahawk Lake is back but removing parking lot 3.

**Closed Session: 10:22 p.m.**

**Return to Open Session**

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**Other Business:**

**2020 Meeting Dates** – Scott Olson thinks that the Open Space Committee should meet more than once every other month and thinks there should be monthly meetings. He thinks it will cut back on the length time that the meetings are running. Ray Bonker thinks it is too much to ask of the committee members that are serving on other committees. Eric Duch and Scott Yappen both agreed with Ray. Joe thinks we need to be committed to bring the Open Space Recreation Plan up to schedule. We may need to throw in a couple extra meetings when needed. John Morytko suggested adding a meeting in March and May. The following are the 2020 Open Space Meeting dates:

- March 9, 2020
- April 13, 2020
- May 11, 2020
- June 8, 2020
- August 10, 2020
- October 12, 2020
- December 14, 2020

Motion by Joe Sabatini, second by Earl Riley to add March and May to the meeting schedule for 2020. Cindy will notice the newspaper.

	Ray Bonker	Scott Olson	Earl Riley	John Morytko	Eric Duch	Joe Sabatini	Scott Yappen
Motion						x	
2nd			x				
Yes		x	x	x		x	
No	x				x		x
Abstain							
Absent							

**Open to the Public 11:00 p.m.**

**Adjourn** – Motion by Scott Yappen, second by John Morytko to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 p.m. All members in favor.