

**OPEN SPACE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2020**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Scott Olson call the meeting to order.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the OPMA law and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

3. ROLL CALL: Present: Scott Olson, Joe Sabatini, John Morytko (late 7:40 pm), Ray Bonker, Earl Riley, Ben Spinelli, and Doris Flynn

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion by Earl Riley, second by Ray Bonker to approve the open and closed minutes. All in favor.

5. OS Financial Status Report

a. Reserve for Open Space - \$400,579

b. Reserve for Debt Service - \$191,891

c. Debt Service P & I - \$335,850

d. Planning Incentive Grant Funds - \$402,000

6. CORRESPONDENCE – Email from Andy Kimm regarding a prescribed burn and invite to the NJ Forestry Association Annual Meeting

7. REPORTS BY PROFESSIONALS

a. Forester Report

2020 Proposal

- Joe is not pleased with the way Ron approaches his work. We have to follow up with him all the time for information. He has \$8,850 for invasives. There is no money allotted for a timber harvest. As far as Joe is aware, Ron hasn't had a conversation with any of the people who bid the ash tree removal or the ones that didn't bid. Joe would like him to focus on an actual plan of removal of the ash trees. For the next meeting, he would like the feedback from the 2 bidders that submitted proposals and feedback from any potential people who didn't bid.
- Scott questioned the marking of boundaries in Glenside Woods because he thought it was done.
- Joe would like Ron to mark the property boundaries on Cranberry Overlook and Glenside Woods.
- Earl agrees that the Ash Tree Removal is important and should get priority in getting the work done.
- Joe would like a better plan put together for removal of invasives, concentrating in the area of trails. Research needs to be done for a controlled burn. The NJ Forestry Office would conduct it.
- Ray would like to move forward with the NJDEP Stewardship grant. Joe stated that at the last meeting, the committee talked about having a conversation with Gracie & Harrigan to handle this grant.
- Ray also would like to contact the County about the stewardship grants they were supposed to be having. The County promised this to the municipalities and residents of Sussex County and we should pursue it.
- Ray said that removal of invasives is in our forest management report.
- The members talked about submitting Ron's proposal to the Council, but only authorizing the \$1500 for ash tree removal. After a lengthy discussion, the decided to put

the proposal on hold and have Ron do the research about the vendors that bid and the ones that did not for the next Open Space meeting.

- Ray stated that we have been spending approximately \$20,000/year on forest management. If we can get the stewardship grant, this would offset the cost of the forest management.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Open Space & Recreation Plan Review – Prepared and Provided by Greener by Design

- Section II – Page 7 through 35 is now complete and uploaded to DropBox this afternoon.
- Ben stated that he could incorporate a paragraph on forest management in this plan.
- Ben asked to review the future needs lists – turf, creation of dog park, replacement of the football field with standard size, rehabbing the field house, gazebo, handicap accessible playgrounds. Do we want to add anything else, do we like the way it is written, is there anything we want changed?
- Greener by Design was charged with pulling all the information together from the survey. Alex said that he thought Ben should provide an expert opinion on the different future needs. Ray thought Ben should provide the facts and knowledge about the feasibility of the future needs but it shouldn't reflect whether Ben feels it is a good idea or not. Ray said do the analysis, walk up to the line, then it will be up to the reader to make his/her decision, and then ultimately the Council.
- Goals section – 2010 goals – listed on page 14. 2020 Goals listed on Page 35. Ben will add a goal about the trails plan.
- Ray talked about expanding the walking path at COJ, which Cory provided a proposal on. Ben said he was going to have this in the trails plan, but he will also mention it in this document under future needs.
- John Morytko suggested changing the title “future needs” to either “potential” or something similar.

Maps

- Reviewed Preserved Lands Map – Ben is going to clean up the map, made notes on items to remove
- We will have 6 maps: Existing trails map, map with targeted connections, targeted preservation properties, map that has all public preserved lands, individual park maps, individual park maps with environmental restraints. We want existing and targeted open space parcels on the map.
- Maps were reviewed, comments and corrections discussed, and Ben will have the GIS contractor make all corrections.

Action Items

- It was agreed that each member would review the Open Space.docx document located in the Dropbox and provide comments by March 16. The focus is on pages 7 – 35. Ben requested that we save the file with each of our names and make changes in the document with editing so that changes can be seen. Please send directly to Ben.
- Ben will provide the final draft of Chapter 2 by March 31.
- Maps will be completed and submitted to us by March 25.
- We will do a final review of the maps at April 13 meeting.

- We will have the whole PRP plan without the trails portion by March 31. Chapter 3, Asset management, Survey Results.
- We will review the completed plan at the June 8th meeting. It will then be presented to the Council on June 16.

9. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Ray Bonker, second by Earl Riley to go into executive session. All members in favor.

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Joe Sabatini, second by John Morytko to return to open session. All members in favor

14. ADJOURN - Motion by Earl Riley, second by Ray Bonker, all members in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Notes Prepared by: Doris Flynn