

BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MINUTES, JUNE 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present: Chairman Ray Bonker, Scott Olson, Joe Sabatini, John Morytko, Bob Brady. Ron Farr, Ben Spinelli and Doris Flynn were also in attendance.

Project Management: Forest Management Plan

Update from Ron Farr – Ron submitted a stewardship report from April through June 8, 2018. Invasive species removal from Stand 7 has been delayed due to high water in the area. It is very wet on Andy Kimm's side of the road. Ron will get back to removing the barberry. Ron asked if we wanted to put a STOP sign on the Cranberry Overlook trail at a section of the trail that goes to a ledge. There was some discussion and the committee decided not to. Ron will have all of the tasks completed except for the Deer Program by end of August.

- a. **Deer Management** – Ron drafted a permit application. He feels the ordinance that is in effect is fine. Joe asked if there was a way to solicit a club. Ben explained that we could do that but the club would need to do something in return. Ron looked into purchasing safety zone signs because he could only get 12 signs from the State. Task 10 was for Ron to come up with a deer management program—after discussion, it was decided that the ordinance did not need to be changed. Glenside, Briar, Beckman-Kosty, Johnson, Tamarack Greenway will be the open space lots that will be hunted. Ron can get the signs made, laminated and posted as part of Task 10 and have posted by 8/13. The Open Space Committee recommends the hunt to the Council.
- b. **GPS on all ATV trails** – Ron will do this in August – Ben will work with Ron on getting a GPS.
- c. **Boundary Marking** – Will be completed in August
- d. **Trails** – All trails are now marked
- e. **Future Tasks** – Joe suggested that Ron come to the August meeting with a list for future tasks for the next 12 months. Joe said that there should be write-up on the progress that has been made, possibly with pictures. Ben stated that he has an intern working with him now and he could assist in marking trees and putting together a power point showing the trees that need to be removed. Ron needs to evaluate Ash trees and see if any can be harvested. We could rate them as far as priority for removing them.

Return to Public session: 8:34 p.m.

Minutes – Motion by Bob Brady, second by Scott Olson to adopt the regular and closed session minutes of April 9, 2018

Open Space Financial Report – Joe reported that there is \$403,860 in the local open space trust fund. In the reserve for debt service is \$267,880. The outstanding Debt Service balance is \$478,125. PIG balance is around \$400,000.

Activities Since Last OS Meeting

- a. Submittal of Scope of Services by Greener by Design – Doris will forward information that we gathered regarding the OS lots for the ROSI. We reviewed the Scope of Services and

talked about the cost. The first section, Open Space & Recreation Planning, should be worked on first. Ben needs to provide more detail in each element and bring it back to the August meeting. The next step will be making a presentation to the Council.

- b. Stag Lake Tree Farm Day Event – June 1st in Byram – 100 people attended this event. Stag Lake got Tree Farm of the Year award.
- c. National Trails Day Event – June 2nd Tamarack Park Cleanup – 11 volunteers worked on the trail. A significant amount of barberry bushes were removed that were encroaching on the trail; but unfortunately that area has a lot of it so it is not completely eliminated. They also performed drainage control in two areas along the trail.

Project Management: Tamarack Park

- a. **Update** – Ray stated that he has received many compliments on Tamarack Park.
- b. **Grant** – We submitted a soccer grant. We should find out by June 20 if we will get the grant, which would pay for all the equipment for the irrigation project. If we get the grant, we would have to rebid the project.

Project Management: Trail Progress on OS Parcels

- a. **Trail Maintenance** – Successful trail maintenance day on June 2 as previously reported. Bob Brady would like to see Byram advertise the trails and get an app. Joe suggested that this can come out of the Scope of Services under Ben Spinelli. Bob suggested offering a patch to cub scouts for hiking Byram Trails—he feels Patriots Path would advertise it.
- b. **Environmental Commission Update** – Eric has a meeting scheduled with the president of Jorba to evaluate whether or not they would like to take on Tamarack Trail as a project

Correspondence and Updates

- a. **Sussex County Agriculture Development Board 4/16/18 Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Sussex County Open Space** – Ray asked Ben to keep on top of asking the County when they are going to accept an application for maintenance.

Other Business - Scott was looking at the Open Space By-Laws and the mission of the OS committee. It is also named Historic Preservation. The Historical Society is not happy with the lack of attention to the cemetery. They would like to see a restoration plan established. It is owned by the Township. Ben suggested incorporating an element in his Scope of Services to look at Historic Resources. The committee was in favor of doing this. Scott Olson would like Frank Gonzalez to come to the August meeting to talk briefly about the historic elements of Byram Township.

Open to the Public: No comments

Adjourn: 9: 00 p.m. Motion by Joe Sabatini, second by Scott Olson to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.