

## OPEN SPACE MEETING – January 12 2026

**Members Present:** Messrs. Sabatini, Dlugos, Morytko, Duch, Esposito, Mayor Rubenstein, Bogardus

**Also present:** Secretary Caitlin Phillips

Mr. Morytko called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

### **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICECHAIR OF OS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Dlugos nominated Mr. Morytko to be the Chair, seconded by Mr. Sabatini. All were in favor.

Mr. Sabatini nominated Mayor Rubenstein to be the Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Morytko. All were in favor.

Mr. Morytko noted this is a good opportunity for new ideas and goals for the year. Their priorities for the year include the loop trail and grants. Mr. Dlugos said he will discuss other ideas during the forest stewardship portion of the meeting.

### **OS FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT:**

Reserve for Open Space: \$429,470.57.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – December 8, 2025 Minutes. Mr. Dlugos motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Esposito. All were in favor.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### *Forest Stewardship Discussion / Green Acres and Sussex County Trails Grant Discussion*

The Committee noted that hopefully the prescribed burn will occur in 2026. They discussed forest stewardship in Cranberry Overlook. Mr. Morytko said Ms. Gracie noted invasive species at Glenside and Tamarack, and that for Glenside, she'd like to get professionals to remove them. Mr. Dlugos noted there are barberry patches there, and that if professionals are used, to see if they would use herbicide, which is effective if used properly. He added that he walked the trails at Stag Lake and found the stakes for the property lines, which are accurate. He removed three Stag Lake signs, and offered to put signs up to stay on the trail. They can also use the signs on the CAD property and at Cranberry Overlook. Mr. Dlugos added that Japanese knotweed is present there, and is hard to remove. There is a method called sheet mulching which could help.

Mayor Rubenstein talked to CAD, and there are no major issues with the trail. He also talked to Hudson Farms, and they are receptive. He asked about parking for the trails nearby. Mr. Dlugos noted it would be in the public access area. He shared a map of trails to discuss, and Mayor Rubenstein noted he will let them know that they'd like to proceed with proposal 2. Mr. Morytko noted this covers the areas needed. The Committee discussed the loop trail. Mr. Dlugos talked about planting trees near Crescent Drive. Mayor Rubenstein noted they may actually want to trim things back. Mr. Sabatini said he can't have the DPW taking care of the trees in terms of maintenance and watering.

Mayor Rubenstein said the football field lighting needs to be updated, and the funding would need Open Space approval. Mr. Sabatini noted the \$75,000 is the estimate for the grant amount. Mayor Rubenstein noted they had a pre-approval meeting, and there are no major issues. French and Parrello will finish the application and submit it.

### **MEMBER REPORTS**

Mr. Duch said for the Environmental Commission, there is an opportunity to reach out to more towns. Mr. Dlugos added that they had an event recently where people from Roxbury and Hopatcong attended. He'd like

more connection with the forester, and could use professional support for projects. He added that a bill passed banning invasive species from being brought to New Jersey.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

No public was present.

**ADJOURN** – Motion by Mr. Sabatini, second by Mayor Rubenstein, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. All members in favor. Motioned carried.