

OPEN SPACE MEETING – June 9 2025

Members Present: Messrs. Sabatini, Duch, Bogardus, Dlugos, Morytko

Members Absent: Mayor Rubenstein, Mr. Esposito

Also present: Secretary Caitlin Phillips

Mr. Morytko called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

OS Financial Status Report:

Reserve for Open Space: \$333,917.74. The group reviewed the report.

Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2025 Minutes

Mr. Dlugos motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Sabatini, provided the spelling of Glenside is updated. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Controlled Burn Application

Mr. Morytko noted the all-inclusive playground had their grand opening. Mr. Sabatini said CO field 8 is mainly completed and the irrigation is installed, but the pump and controls are on backorder. Two representatives from French and Parrello are going to a Council meeting to explain the status of the project and the design.

Mr. Morytko thanked Mr. Dlugos for his work on the Controlled Burn application. The Council wanted to hear from the Fire Service before approving this. They expect the discussion to take place in August, and plan to have the application prepared and submitted. There is a map in the agenda packet that shows the controlled burn area. Mr. Dlugos submitted the application to Joe today, who will send this to the Council. Mr. Dlugos learned about barberry removal tactics, and found that the best removal method is 2 years in a row, to remove the underbrush. Mr. Duch suggested an outreach to the adjacent property owners to make sure they don't have any issues. Mr. Sabatini said the Council needs to approve the project first. They can invite residents to the 08/12 meeting.

Deer Hunting Parcel Allocation

Mr. Duch said they need hunting signs on the trails, because they're just at the trailhead now. Mr. Morytko said they can see what's been used and put them out there. Mr. Sabatini said if it's to inform people, they need to figure out the messaging. It's up to the hunters to be responsible—the town doesn't have the resources to manage this. Mr. Dlugos motioned to approve the deer hunting allocations, seconded by Mr. Duch.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Trails Conference

Mr. Dlugos said they will need to keep updated. The workshop was rained out, so it's been rescheduled to 06/28. Peter Dolan will be running it. There is also a workshop on 06/22 for invasive species, and another one for trail design. There was also a MyMaps presentation, and the maps will include Byram trails.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Dlugos said the Environmental Commission should have a multi-year plan for invasive species. They should look into grant funding. Mr. Sabatini said there is a stewardship plan, which expires in 2029. It mentions initiatives, and they could review it for invasives information, which is on pages 66-76. Mr. Morytko noted the Planning Board's application have been mainly residential, and they also have been discussing and finalizing

affordable housing information. Mr. Bogardus noted the Recreation Committee programs, and that there was a fishing program over the weekend that went well.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public was present.

ADJOURN – Motion by Mr. Sabatini, second by Mr. Dlugos, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. All members in favor. Motioned carried.