

OPEN SPACE MEETING – August 11 2025

Members Present: Messrs. Sabatini, Dlugos, Morytko, Esposito

Members Absent: Messrs. Duch, Bogardus, and Mayor Rubenstein

Also present: Secretary Caitlin Phillips

Mr. Morytko called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Morytko announced the New Jersey Fire Service will present at the Council meeting tomorrow, for controlled burn information. He and Mr. Dlugos plan to be there.

OS FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT:

Reserve for Open Space: \$313,373.50. The group reviewed the report. Mr. Sabatini said the levy hasn't been posted yet. Mr. Dlugos asked how the Forester, Heather Gracie, gets paid. Mr. Sabatini said there's a resolution to authorize a scope of work for her. The Committee can authorize a project as a group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 9, 2025 Minutes

Mr. Dlugos motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Morytko. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Trails Conference Report

Mr. Dlugos said the conference went well. They had a trail design workshop, and the workshops are now complete. They now have two versions of My Map, including the assessment done by Patrick Erb, and one that uses GPS to track routes in Byram. The next steps are for Messrs. Dlugos and Duch to get the maps into a form accessible to the public. They may want to add parking spaces to the maps. There was an emphasis on different colors for different trails. There was a concern about people getting lost—if all the trails are white, it can be confusing. They could make trails that connect a combination of the 2 colors.

Mr. Dlugos said they're organizing a Trail Keepers meeting. Mr. Sabatini noted they could update the website with their information. Mr. Dlugos said they may want to print larger maps for kiosks, and have additional signs to direct people to the parks. Mr. Sabatini said they may be able to order the signs through the County.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Forest Stewardship Plan (Forest Stewardship Plan) / Recommended Management and Implementation Schedule (page 80)

Mr. Dlugos would like to see a map with the stand numbers on it. He also wants to focus on invasive species work. Mr. Morytko noted they could have Ms. Gracie update the Stewardship document. Mr. Sabatini said they may want to update the 10-year plan, rather than try to execute an outdated plan. They should see what Ms. Gracie recommends.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Morytko said the Planning Board heard an application near the Tamarack parcel that had a parking encroachment. Wawa is coming back for EV charger amendments. Mr. Dlugos said the Environmental Commission is looking to identify invasive species and native plants, and would like to work with Plant Detectives. They're also looking into the ordinance for riparian buffers. Mr. Sabatini noted Byram Fest is coming up. There is a Council meeting tomorrow night. Ryan Homes is doing well drilling on a parcel near ShopRite. 2 Tamarack has some new retail spaces opening up, including a Turkish prepared goods store and a craft store. There was further discussion about rental units on the Niec property. Starbucks is advertising their Open Space Minutes –August 11, 2025

lot. Mr. Sabatini noted he is the acting Zoning Officer at the moment. The budget will be reviewed soon. Challenges include interest rates and health insurance. Mr. Dlugos said he met with the Chair of the Environmental Commission in Stanhope, and they talked about grants and watersheds. Mr. Sabatini discussed watershed information. He noted East Brookwood has a mountainous area where the water flows into Lubbers Run, and West Brookwood has a similar issue. Mr. Esposito said the History Society is having a Teddy Roosevelt reenactor at Wild West City.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public was present.

ADJOURN – Motion by Mr. Esposito, second by Mr. Sabatini, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. All members in favor. Motioned carried.