

OPEN SPACE MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Ray Bonker, Joe Sabatini, Scott Olson, John Morytko (late 8:03 p.m.), Eric Duch.
Also present: Doris Flynn, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino and Ron Farr

Ray Bonker called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Project Management:

a. Forest Management Plan/Activities List – Ron Farr

Ron asked if we are going with the names that are on the Rosi. The Johnson parcel has been added to Cranberry Overlook. Joe said that Ron is missing the portion of Tamarack Park that goes down to Route 206, which we acquired from Panther Lake Campground with a land swap. Doris and Joe will look into the mapping from the transaction. Joe looked through files on his computer and found documentation that what we thought was Township property was actually given to NJCF. Joe suggested that in the future there could be an interface between Ron and NJCF.

Ron added the Forest South property, Gamski property was added to Glenside Woods. There is a stack of logs on the PSE&G easement – Ron will send an email with pictures to the zoning officer. Ron found a camera – Joe stated that it should be taken down and brought to town hall. It is carry in and carry out and people shouldn't put cameras up. Ron stated that on Forest South, he found a pipe – Ron will take pictures and send to Doris.

Ron needs to change the stand numbers in the text in the plan. Alex took a GPS when he walked Tamarack Park Trail and he will send it to Ron and Ben.

Ron said there is a large amount of invasives on the southern part of the Johnson parcel. Doris can provide a survey of the Johnson parcel to Ron.

- Joe said the year should be 2020 and not 2019.
- Joe suggested adding a plan in the stand breakdown that we should plan on marking trails on Forest South and the Johnson parcel.
- In 2020, Joe feels that Forest South and the Johnson parcel should be marked and encroachments identified in 2020.
- Future trail markings will be in accordance with the master plan trail plan.
- Joe feels we should address the ATV abuse in 2020
- Ron asked if the committee would be supportive of a burn or a deer fence. Ron stated that the top of Cranberry Overlook would be a good place for a burn. Ron will put it into the plan. Ron should report what to do for deer culling if what we are doing isn't working. Joe would like to see Ron

bring in a group. Lake Mohawk used to do organized deer culling which was headed up by an individual.

- Research Heitman – it isn't in our plan – Ron will add that to Briar Ridge North.
- Joe questioned the dates of the plan and thought it should be 2020 – 2024.
- Ron stated that there is a large amount of ash on Forest South. We can look at that area after we complete the removal at COJ.
- Eric asked about parasitic wasp and how effective it is on the ash trees. Ron will talk to the NJDEP about it.
- Removal of the ash trees – Ron has to provide a cost estimate for a contractor to do the work. It would be best if the estimate doesn't exceed \$17,500. Ron will send an estimate
- Stands 4 and 5 will be done the middle of September.
- The remaining stands will be done as scheduled.
- The updated Stewardship plan will be sent to us by 9/30. We will look to adopt at our next meeting in October at the OS meeting, and at the Council meeting following that meeting.
- The invoice provided by Ron in the amount of \$1,820 was reviewed and recommended that it be paid.
- Doris will follow up with Donna on the grant status for hazardous tree inventory.
- **NJ 2020 Forest Action Plan** – No action by Ron.
- Discussed the email from Mrs. Moran regarding the cherry tree. Mike Orgera made a site inspection and stated the tree is not in the right-of-way. Joe will work with the zoning officer for a response.

b. Parks and Recreation Plan – Ben Spinelli

- i. Council Presentation** – It was well received by the Council. They plan on coming back to the Council in September to give another presentation, which will include a list of grants.
- ii. Review of Survey Responses** – Survey is closing on August 15 – they will do a total analysis
- iii. Status on Stakeholder Meetings** - Finished public outreach. Finishing up internal outreach – will meet with Alex on Tuesday. Haven't heard back from Harvey or Nisha yet.
- iv. Parks Inventory** – Ben will be concentrating on completing the inventory. They will also be looking at trail connectors. Ben talked about the drone video on the parks. COJ looks great and compares to Freedom Park in Randolph. There was discussion about different parks in the area. Will come back with a list of trail connectors, inventory list, and grant list. Ben stated that he met with the trail conference and talked about a unified trail network. They will start working on the Highlands Trail.

Approval of Regular/Closed Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2019 – Motion by John Morytko, second by Scott Olson to approve with a few minor changes. All members in favor.

OS Financial Status Report

- a. **Open Space Trust Fund Balance:** \$411,311
- b. **Reserve For Debt Service Balance:** \$226,923
- c. **Outstanding Debt Service Balance:** \$402,902

Activities Since Last OS Meeting

c. **Weekly PRP Status Calls**

Council presentation in July

EC Trail Clean up

- d. Mayor's Trail Walk – About 10 residents came – The owner of the campground walked. The owner asked if he could mow a path between the newly planted trees around to the trail.

6. Parks Projects

- a. **C.O. Johnson – Status on Improvement Projects** - Bids for the steps and tennis courts were taken on August 8. Cory is recommending that the Township accept the lowest bid on each one. Scott Olson made a motion, second by Joe Sabatini, to recommend to the Council to award the bids. Joe, Scott Olson, John, and Ray voted in favor. Eric voted against. Motion carried.
- b. **Tamarack Park** – Two brothers are working on Eagle Scout projects. Michael will be building a shed around the well pump. Matthew will be building an equipment storage shed to be utilized by whatever sporting organization is assigned the field.
- c. **Neil Gylling, Mohawk View, East Brookwood, River Road**

7. Historic Preservation Projects

- a. **Lockwood Cemetery Update**
- b. **Historic Markers** – Cat swamp historical marker was knocked down. The County and State are handling it. Alex offered to contact the NJDOT. Joe forwarded Alex the info.

8. Committee Updates

- a. **Environmental Commission Update** – EC will be hosting a presentation on invasive species. There will be a clean up on Briar Ridge South trail on October 5. They may remove invasive species. Ron Farr will be attending the August EC meeting to review the Community Forest Management Plan.
- b. **Recreation Committee Update** – They are working on 2020 budget recommendations. Byram Fest is planned for September 27, with food trucks, bounce houses and fireworks. Phil Crosson has joined the staff at Byram and will assist the Recreation Committee with facilitating events. He will also assist in seeking and facilitating grants.
- c. **Planning Board Update** – Tomahawk Lake application will be heard in September. Wawa proposal will be reviewed by the ARC this week.
- d. **Council Update** - Scott provide an update

9. Correspondence

- a. **NJDEP violation at parks in Byram.** The violations were corrected and photos were sent to NJDEP, and they sent an email back to say the violation was cleared.

- b. Resignation of Andrew Kimm** – He was a public member with a term expiring 12/31/2019. Earl Riley expressed interest in joining the OS. There was discussion about temporarily filling the set through 12/31/19. Doris will advertise an open seat to see if there is any additional interest. Ray talked to Andy about why he was resigning. Ray will greatly miss his expertise and would like to do something to recognize him. Ray will draft a letter and forward it to Doris.
 - c. Sussex County Open Space Minutes - 2/28/19**
 - d. Sussex County agriculture development board minutes – June 17, 2019**
 - e. Resolution Authorizing Deer Hunting for 2019-2020 Hunting Season**
 - f. Letter from Donna Komorowski** – The committee discussed it and thought that Ray Bonker should call her to find out her experience and qualifications. Ray agreed to give her a call.
 - g. Sussex County Trails Program** – Scott Olson talked about this with Greener by Design
- 10. Closed Session**
- a. Potential Acquisitions**
- 11. Other Business**
- 12. Open to the Public**
- 13. Adjourn**