

OPEN SPACE MEETING – JUNE 10, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Ray Bonker, Joe Sabatini, Scott Olson, John Morytko, Scott Yappen, Eric Duch. Also present: Doris Flynn, Ben Spinelli, Genevieve Tarino and Ron Farr (Andy Kimm – excused absence)

Project Management:

- **Forest Management Plan/Activities List – Ron Farr** – Pulled out 3, 30-gallon bags of garlic mustard – Stand 6 – up the hill on Briar Ridge North. Cut 95% of the barberry on Stand 1, off of Andover Mohawk Road. A new invasive coming in, Cypress Spurge. It was about 8” tall, blooming – yellow flower. Garlic mustard changes the soil chemistry.
Deer Management – 3 deer were shot – Briar Ridge North, Cranberry Ledge Overlook, Tamarack Trail. 9 hunters. Ron had a question in his survey “Is there anything that can enhance your hunting experience?” Responses: Allow ladder stands on the property to hunt, purchase more open space to hunt on.
Stand 4 & 5 will be next – Ben needs the code to get in the gate at LMCC. Scott Olson stated that he has a card Ron can borrow to swipe.
Ash Tree Removal – Joe needs the specs and estimated value – it will be handled as a concession. We can send out to several contractors and then award as a concession. Location, number of trees, time period, etc. - QPA can put it in the RFP format.
Forest Stewardship Plan – should be completed by the end of July – draft for August meeting – and Open Space will recommend to the Council to adopt.
Invoice – Motion by Scott Olson, second by Eric to pay invoice in the amount of \$1,885.00. Erik stated that he would ask the EC if they were still interested in doing the invasive clean up on Tamarack Trail.
Briar Ridge Trail complaint – The Southern Trail markers have faded. Ron used a new paint from Tractor Supply, which isn’t holding up like the paint he used to get. Erik suggested that the EC may be able to go out on this trail and repaint. Joe suggested that the EC should first give attention to the Brookwood Park Trail, which needs some maintenance. John Morytko suggested that trails should be inspected quarterly. Ben stated that their report will be stating that. Ben also stated that they will be recommending a trail marking system and suggested holding off making any permanent trail marking improvements.
- **Parks and Recreation Plan – Ben Spinelli**
 - They have been concentrating on getting through the stakeholder list and sporting groups. They still need to interview Lacrosse and Basketball.
 - Great meeting with NJ/NY Trails conference, NJDEP and Jorba. Talked about a unified trail system, crossing of Route 206, multi-use trail system (hikers, bikers, cross country skiing)
 - Spoke with both schools
 - Completed a park inventory
 - Walked all of Byram’s trails – took photographs and documented conditions
 - Upcoming meetings – Byram Historical Society, Stanhope and Netcong Administrators, will meet with Lake Associations to discuss what each lake offers

- Byram has the potential to be a real destination. We have many things that other towns do not have. The trails can be enhanced with not much work. Ben talked about a few locations that have made themselves a destination such as Bentonville, Arkansas, and Kingdom Trails, Vermont. Joe stated that there are nearby areas with accommodations in Mt. Olive.
- Ben talked about the development of the Highlands Trail – 145 miles – mini Appalachian Trail. Could do this Rail in 7-10 days. Once the Highlands Trail has more of an identity, Byram would be a great host community to make it a destination. One of the missing elements on the Highlands Trail is overnight accommodations. Andrea Proctor suggested making the house on the corner of Jefferson Lakes Road a Highlands Trail visitor center. Ben feels that Byram has the core elements – their report will give many suggestions. Scott Olson suggested contacting Michele Archie of the Harbinger Consultancy, who presented at the northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference. Ben talked about the Kellogg property, located next to the train station location, which is proposed to have 2 trail systems in it.
- Survey response – 930 responses. They expect a spike because Andrea Proctor at Waterloo Village will be sending an email blast, which will hit a vast amount of people. Ray would like to get over 1000 so that the survey is rock solid.
- Greener by Design listed Environmental/Landmarks Advisory Committee – Donna Fett – no one has ever heard of this committee – Doris will investigate.
- Ben stated that the enrollment numbers in our local sporting clubs have declined. COJ is a great facility. Heard many comments from sporting organizations that our DPW superintendent is doing a great job with the fields.
- Ben met with LVR and discussed the turf field. They are adding two more turf plots – girl's softball field and one will be a multi field use. They talked to LVR about the local sporting clubs being able to use these fields. LVR agreed that it would be a good idea to extend to the sporting groups. Joe sees an opportunity to enter into a shared service with Netcong, Stanhope and Lenape Valley. Joe stated that Stanhope and Netcong do not offer their residents fields and Byram is supplying fields and paying for all the maintenance.
- Ben has heard that Andover Township wants to talk to Greener by Design about sharing recreation programs with Byram.
- Joe suggested that Ben talk to Lakeland Little League (Stanhope).
- Ray asked if Ben was on target, which he is.
- Ben wants to do another field day with the interns to look at Kellogg property, and a few other areas in Byram or nearby Byram.
- John asked if there will be some comparative information to similar sized towns. Joe would like to know from a policy standpoint how other towns manage renting space on their fields.
- News and Noteworthy update – we will review and Joe will put on the Township's Facebook page and website

Approval of Regular/Closed Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2019 – Motion by Scott Olson, second by Eric Duch. All members in favor.

OS Financial Status Report

- a. *Open Space Trust Fund Balance:* \$410,431
- b. *Reserve For Debt Service Balance:* \$226,923
- c. *Outstanding Debt Service Balance:* \$402,900
- d. *PIG Balance:* \$400,000

Activities Since Last OS Meeting

- **Resolution of Support to Extend the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway to Waterloo Village** - Scott Olson stated that there has been talk about bringing the end of the trail to Route 206 in Byram – this resolution brings it to Waterloo Village.
- **Weekly PRP Status Calls** – every Monday at 11 a.m.
- **PSA for Ron Farr for 5 year Community Forestry Plan** – The Township was awarded a \$3000 green communities grant. The Council has authorized Ron Farr to prepare this plan.

Parks Projects

- **C.O. Johnson – Request for Various Improvements-Total Estimate \$158,000**
 - Tennis Court Repairs & Re-coating - \$55,000 – line stripe, new nets, hardware, pickleball court, etc. Scott Yappen visited the site with a neighbor who works with concrete. There is severe damage but are still playable. Ray suggested lining two of the courts for pickleball because he sees people playing it at least 3 days a week at COJ.
 - Stairs Adjacent to Roseville Road Parking Lot – steps are in desperate need of repair – estimated cost to repair - \$38,000
 - Engineer prepared an estimate for proposed walking paths
 - Motion Scott Olson, second by John Morytko for item 1 and Item 3 in the Engineer’s report and recommended taking \$93,000 out of the OS fund. Scott Yappen stated that he wanted to comment that this is what he feels the open space money is for and would like the Recreation Committee to be more involved in recommendations in the future. Ray stated that spending money on recreation improvements is one of the things that OS funds should be used for but not the only thing. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
- **Tamarack Park: Right Back Corner Drainage** – The back right corner does not drain very well from the right back corner. Ray would like to keep an eye on this field to see if this is a significant problem or just a problem now because of the tremendous amount of rain.
- **Neil Gylling, Mohawk View, East Brookwood, River Road** – Ray said that if the Recreation Committee finds any problems with these parks, we can discuss for future improvements

Historic Preservation Projects

- **Lockwood Cemetery Update**
- **Historic Markers**

Committee Updates

- a. ***Environmental Commission Update*** – Salt Shakers went out on National Trails Day. They cleared out an area that was affecting the Blue Iron Mine Trail. Harvey Roseff talked to the EC about the dirt problem in Vernon. Arbor Day was a success for the EC. A few EC members went to an invasive species seminar. There was talk about doing a Township calendar.
- b. ***Recreation Committee Update*** – Scott Yappen reported that the Kids Triathlon is on June 22. They are organizing a night golf outing at Lake Lackawanna. Byram Day Committee will be having a meeting this week to recommend doing an event in the fall. The committee is talking about have an event on a Friday night with food trucks and fireworks. A location has not been determined. Joe has suggested moving Byram Day to the spring since we are late in planning.
- c. ***Planning Board Update***
- d. ***Council Update***
 - Scenic Byway Resolution
 - Authorized Scope of Services to the Nader Group to begin the investigative work on a new municipal building not to exceed \$50,000

Correspondence

- **Herald article on new trail cleared in Andover Twp; National Trails Day hike Planned with Sussex County Chamber of Commerce**
 - **HDC Purchase Program** – Scott Olson explained that the Highlands is now accepting applications to property owners in the Highlands area to sell development credits. Right now, there are no buyers. Highlands set a value to a credit of \$16,000.
 - **Sussex County agriculture development board minutes – March 18, 2019**
6. **Closed Session** – 10:05 p.m., return to open at 10:18 p.m.
 7. **Other Business**
 8. **Open to the Public**
 9. **Adjourn** – Motion by Scott Olson, second by John Morytko to adjourn meeting at 10:19 p.m.
All in favor

Minutes prepared by: Doris Flynn