

## **OPEN SPACE MEETING – FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

Members Present: Andy Kimm, Scott Olson, John Morytko, Joe Sabatini, Eric Duch, Ray Bonker. Also present were Ron Farr, Benn Spinelli, Genovieve Tarino, and Doris Flynn. Alex Rubenstein and the reporter from the Township Journal were present.

### Greener by Design

- Ray gave a summary on what has taken place since the acceptance of the grant
- Ben said that they hope to go live by the end of the week with the survey through Survey Monkey.
- Ben will start the stakeholder outreach process. He feels they have a good handle on the lands that Byram owns. They will add the Board of Education land. Ben will need the costs that the Township has incurred developing COJ and Tamarack Park.
- There was discussion on the name of the plan – changing it to Parks and Recreation Plan. Ray would like to announce that the Parks and Recreation Survey is now out.
- Reviewed project timeline – frontloaded on outreach. They will hold public meetings in the Council room or at the school. It will be both during the week in the evening and on a Saturday.
- Ray asked to schedule the first public meeting by Tuesday. Alex suggested having a meeting in a lake community. The press release could refer to the first public meeting date.
- We would hold periodic meetings with staff for updates. In addition, they will use the Open Space meetings for status updates.
- Field work will start in April. They will do a trail blitz day – bringing up interns and walk every in of the trails. They will do a drone over flight – parks and trails.
- Joe would like to expand on what is being done with this project because it is more than an Open Space and Rec plan. Ben can provide a bulleted update often which Joe can post on News and Noteworthy.

### Survey – Comments

- Move demographics to front.
- Survey too long. People will lose focus – surveys need to be brief and quick. 3-5 minute max
- Alex said have a box where people can type a paragraph of what they want.
- Andy commented on the stewardship/asset management section in the survey – add spotted lanternfly
- Ask what municipality do they live in – need more than a zip code.
- There was discussion on the name of the park – Mohawk View or Stonehedge Park. We will refer to it as Mohawk View/Stonehedge Park.
- Ben will make the survey shorter, more direct. He will send it out to the Open Space committee. The committee has to take the survey and provide comment back by Monday.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2018 - Motion by Andy, second by John to adopt the regular and closed session minutes. Scott abstained. All in favor.

OS Financial Status Report

- a. Open Space Trust Fund Balance: \$420,316.70
- b. Reserve For Debt Service Balance: \$233,973.04
- c. Outstanding Debt Service Balance: \$360,000.00 - \$409, - interest payment due 4/1

Activities Since Last Meeting

- a. Acceptance of \$80,000 Highlands Grant and Kick-off Meeting
- b. Resignation from Bob Brady, Recreation Representative
- c. Annual Meeting of Committee Chairs – Ray provided a report

Parks Projects

- A C.O. Johnson
- B. Tamarack
- C. Neil Gylling, Mohawk View, East Brookwood, River Road

Project Management: Trails

- a. Trail Maintenance – EC has been leading the effort for trail maintenance. The Council liaison told the EC that they would not be doing trail maintenance anymore. This was not correct. Ray stated that the OS will own trails as far as planning but EC and other groups can plan trail maintenance. Ben’s trail blitz should be coordinated with the EC.
- b. Environmental Commission Update – EC pays for ANJEC dues. He asked maybe the OS wanted to have a membership for NJ/NY Trails Conference. Ben will look into this.

Other Business – Ron will need to address including the Johnson parcel in the stewardship plan.

Open to the Public – No comments

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. All members in favor.

Prepared by: Doris Flynn