

Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 11, 2022 (meeting via video & phone due to COVID-19)

Present: Dey, Hess, Hickman, Jamanow, Knell, Maines, Matlack, Mayer, Perry, Rich, Zipin; *Absent:*

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Ms. Jamanow at 7:03.
2. **2022 Selections/Nominations:** Harry Mayer, Chairman; Ray Perry, Vice-Chair; Lisa Knell, Secretary.
3. **Consideration of Minutes.** The minutes from the December 12, 2021 were accepted with no changes.
4. **Introduction & Welcome to New Member:** Anne Matlack.
5. **Status Update: Open Space Encroachments:** Discussed reaching out to residents that are adjacent to Open Space sites in a non-threatening way; asking them to be stewards of the space; let Township know if there are any problems.
6. **Status Update: Signage Order:** The signs have been ordered (Little Woods and Water Works).
7. **Status Update: Swede Run Trails:** Trails have been cleaned up by Public Works. STEM worked on bridge. US Fish and Wildlife replanting the field with native species – not enough was ordered for the whole field; they will continue in the Spring.
8. **Status Update: Update on Trucksess, Pearson and Flying Feather:** Trucksess – Nancy spoke to Tegan Trucksess and they are interested in preserving some of the land (some may be subdivided, including the existing house); can't do any appraisals, etc. until we know what she wants to do; Green Acres is still interested and on-board; the amount is not yet determined. We would hope to have the land adjacent to Boundary Creek and the Rancocas. Pearson: Harry visited Ms. Pearson and made sure she had all the paperwork; NJ Natural Lands Trust owns adjacent lots. Flying Feather: Nancy said that their sub-division application for "The Hill" at Garwood and Westfield should be in by next week. We need a plan for what the Township wants for the space.
9. **Status Update: Update on Open Space Master Plan Status:** Nancy has a Draft; has to go to Planning Board; plan should be done by end of January.
10. **New Business: Susan Steven Halbe Space:** Used to be available to public; can we make it usable again? We have talked about making it into an amphitheater. What do we need to get parking in there? More and faster traffic on Creek Rd. Would be passive recreation. Barbara mentioned the County was working on a trail along Creek Rd. so they might be putting traffic slow-down measures in place.
11. **New Business: Goals for 2022:** Public Outreach: Doing social media; Facebook group; try to put info out there about our Open Spaces. Updating Open Space Brochure: we just had more printed; does it need to be updated? If not, could just put an insert inside. Or put out a new brochure about stewardship? Interacting with younger children to make them aware of Open Spaces: For example, run a photography challenge or other event to engage them. Connection to High School Environmental Group: helped build bridges at Esther Yanai; clearing brush and tree growth at Susan Stevens Halbe site.
12. **New Business: Open Space Committee to Draft a letter to be sent to properties adjacent to Open Space.** Ray is going to work on this.
13. **New Business: Township Liason and Staff Updates:** Mayor Nicole Gillespie: She is talking to all committees; 2022 will be the Year of the Environment in Moorestown. 1st Quarter focusing on Sustainable Energy use; 2nd Q focus is single-use plastics. 3rd Q focus is reducing food waste. 4th Q focus is air quality and transportation. They are also looking at standardizing committee rules, structure, etc. Goal is to update rules by the end of the year. Council Member Dave Zipin: Dave reiterated what Mayor Gillespie talked about. Nancy Jamanow, Community Development: Nancy mentioned the revised rules for committees; these rules also specify rules for committee interaction with Township employees; committees can't direct employees to do anything.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 by Mr. Mayer. The next scheduled meeting is February 8, 2022.