

Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

Present: Dey, Hess, Knell, Matlack, Mayer, Rich, Roberts, Spinello; Absent: Gil, Gillespie

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:05. Note that there was no meeting in December 2024, and not a quorum in January 2025.
2. **Elections:** Chairperson: Harry Mayer; Vice Chair: Maura Dey; Secretary: Lisa Knell.
3. **Consideration of Minutes.** All outstanding minutes were approved with no changes.
4. **New Business: Julie Maravich (President, Saving Historic Moorestown) presentation about Commodore Thomas Truxtun property:** The Truxton/Bispham/Walton house (built circa 1770) that sits on a 4-acre parcel at 730 Marne Highway (across from Lockheed-Martin) is owned by Virtua. Commodore Thomas Truxtun lived there (1812-1816); among other accomplishments, he was one of the first six Navy commanders appointed by George Washington; he commanded a number of naval ships; he mapped the Gulf Stream with Benjamin Franklin, and he created a standardized signal flag manual for the Navy. Virtua's original plans have been scrapped and they want to sell the property (which includes the c1770 house and grounds and a newer building). The property meets the following criteria identified in the Master Plan for consideration as a property that should be preserved and protected from development: Open space; Recreation; Historical Significance; Development Pressure; Viewshed; Aesthetics. The OSAC voted to add the property to our *Moorestown Township Potential Open Space Properties for Acquisition* list with the hope that it can be saved; perhaps through a Township/County/State effort. **IMPORTANT:** The addition of this property to our Acquisition list must be officially submitted to the County – they won't contribute money if a property is not on this list and the list has not officially been submitted to them.
5. **Status Update: Letter to Open Space "Neighbors":** Damian cannot find the letter; we need to find our approved version and sent it to him.
6. **Status Update: Trucksess, Pearson, DePaulo:** No official updates.
7. **New Business: ACT Remediation at Carson's Farm site:** No update. [This is from Nov. 2024 Minutes: Tile drains were dug up, resulting in the farmer saying the land was too wet to farm; it is 73 acres; connects to Esther Yannai; rear portion of 17 acres is not wet; we should put this at the top of our priority list.]
8. **Township Liason Updates and Comments:** None.
9. **Public Comment:** None.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 by Mr. Mayer. The next scheduled meeting is on March 11th, 2025.