

# Open Space Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

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

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Mr. Mayer.
2. **Consideration of Minutes.** The minutes for March 11, 2025 were approved with one change.
3. **Status Update: Letter to Open Space “Neighbors”:** Damian reported that he didn’t have the budget to send the letter out at the present time. Suggestion was made that the letter could be put on the Township’s website; Damian said that it could. He also reported that when an Open-Space-Adjacent property is being sold, a survey must be completed and they are catching many encroachments (e.g., fences, driveways, pools, plantings) through these surveys. A question was posed about whether Open Space funds could be used for “maintenance” – i.e., to pay for the letter.
4. **Status Update: Trucksess, Pearson, DePaulo:** Trucksess still up in the air. County may be interested in the Pearson property. DePaulo has been approved for sub-division and trees cleared; there is a question about whether it’s buildable because of wetlands, etc.
5. **Status Update: Chris Schafer Heat Trace Map:** No update. [*A “heat trace” map is being developed – shows usage of trails; question about if you tell the difference between a person and an animal on a trail.*]
6. **Status Update: New Signage for Open Space parcels:** Committee will discuss and recommend what type of sign (material, dimensions, etc.) that might be best; e.g., a uniform sign that can be attached to existing signs. Committee will let Damian know so he can get it into the budget. [*At March 8 meeting the Committee discussed putting up signs that say “This land preserved as Open Space through the Open Space Tax” – or something like that so, people can see what has been preserved (Mt. Laurel has signs on many of their spaces.); signs should have the same or similar language; might show the outline of the of the property and/or have a “you are here” designator.*]
7. **Old Business: Sign for Flying Feather parcel at Westfield and Garwood:** We need to determine what the sign should say; family may want their name on it. We need to make a formal vote (we made an informal vote in Oct. 2022)
8. **Township Liaison Updates and Comments:** On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Township Council passed an Ordinance amending the Township Code to establish “local Historic Preservation regulations within the Township Code. The regulations contained within the ordinance establish a Commission of five regular members and two alternate members appointed by the mayor. In addition to establishing the duties and responsibilities of the commission, a Historic District is established, and a map attached to the ordinance as Appendix A, along with a listing of properties contained within the district. The review process, and the types of alterations to be reviewed by the commission are established, as well as the criteria by which the Commission will review and approve applications. Further ordinance additions include the establishment of fees and penalties for violation of the new regulations contained within this chapter. Additionally, a section of the Township Code regulating the appearance committee has been revised to include jurisdiction within the entire Township, except property within the Historic District.”
9. **Public Comment:** None.
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 by Mr. Mayer. The next scheduled meeting is on May 13, 2025.