

## **Moorestown Township Open Space Committee Meeting minutes**

May 10, 2022; 7:00pm.

Moorestown Library, Meeting Room B

Present: Mayer, Hickman, Zipin, Hess, Perry, Maines, Matlack, Jamanow

Absent: Knell, Dey

Public attendance: Barbara Rich

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Chairperson Mayer.

Discussed approval of minutes for past two meetings. Members need time to review the minutes so we will vote on approval for January, February, March, and May meeting minutes during the next meeting on June 14.

### **Old business**

Open space encroachments –

Ray has newest draft of letter. Passed out in this meeting for review. This is the last chance to edit the draft before completion and dissemination.

Swedes run has been seeded. We are waiting for germination. The final application and weeding were done recently. Pollinator seeds were planted near Westfield Road. Pollinator seeds and wild grasses were planted further from road. Will take time for growth. Mark P and Harry did this work. Planted trees near bench near stone house of pollinator garden. Gravel trail needs maintenance along Westfield Road around Swedes Run because of uncontrolled growth of grasses – on radar. Replaced bridge at Swedes Run.

Pearson property - owner received application from NJ natural land trust (approved by Green Acres). She completed and will pass onto NJ DEP. We told Esther Pearson that it will take time for review by DEP. We need to communicate often with DEP so that this moves along. This provides connection to South Valley Woods.

Trucksess - Nancy contacted Teagan Trucksess, but needs to contact her again. The settlement of the estate needs to be done by the end of May so Ms. Trucksess did not have time to work on the property. The process towards purchasing the property is moving along positively.

Flying Feather - resolution approved. Town Council approved funding and purchase. By the beginning of July, we should own it. Green Acres funding \$500k. The township is paying \$502,500.00 for the property.

Open Space Master Plan - June 2 - board meeting, Brian Slaugh presenting master plan, to get feedback. June 30 7pm planning meeting to approve master plan.

Misc matters - none.

### **New Business**

Goals for 2022

New printing - take-a-hike brochure. 600 made. Barbara gave out 550.

Matt Johnson – table next week at Burlington Ag Center. Kayak races at Strawbridge Lake.

Table at Moorestown Day. QR code for Take-A-Hike brochure. Show this at different events.

Tom Merchel - CFO Moorestown of financials for us to review.

Open Space Financial info - \$450k; 7/12 goes to public works for grass cutting, etc. At end of 2021, we have \$3.2M. We have \$3.6M in bank now.

Open Space encroachment letter – after review, approved by everyone present.

Need to review our charter, as do all Town committees. (Resolutions 99-101 and 43-2003)

Re-define roles. Determine overlap with other committees, like Sustainability, etc. What do we do and is not already in the charter? We should look at our charter individually and discuss next time.

We should petition the Town to give us more money (part of examining financial strategy goal of charter). Ask the Town to come to our meeting in June to present financial.

Arrange Matt Johnson to come talk with us about County objectives, and how they align with Town objectives. Specifically Creek Road trail. Harry will reach out to Matt.

Homework for committee members: review minutes from last minutes. Also, review resolutions.

Update on environmental inventory. Open space and recreation section. Let Barbara or Joan Ponessa know if there are any comments.

Our last acquisition was in 2008: Farrago Farms

Public comment: none.

Motion to adjourn from Chairperson Mayer. Approved 7:54pm.