

Minutes of Meeting – Open Space Committee – 11/7/07

Members Present: Robin Randolph, Tom Finn, Leigh Kramer, Maureen Cullen.
Minutes taken by M. Cullen, filling in for Donna Zilberfarb.

Approval of October Minutes: A change needed to be made regarding who paid for the small OS signs posted around town. Materials were donated by a resident and not Sign Language. Motion to approve made by Tom Finn, second by Leigh Kramer. Tom Finn abstained, all others approved.

Old Business:

Open Spaces Sign

Maureen Cullen brought in a mock up of a sign design by LOGO MECHANIX, which was created from the combination of an actual photo and a painting of the scene, given to him by Maureen. Members present suggested several changes to his design:

1. The tree is too prominent and the leaves are not realistic looking. It was suggested the tree be smaller, and that the graphic designer add leaves of a white oak, as this is the species of tree it is.
2. The ridge line in the background has up and down peaks, which is not what the ridge lines in our area look like. Request that graphic designer straighten the ridge.
3. The slogan, Open Spaces ~ Simply Beautiful, is much too small. Make it larger. Also, the township name is too small and does not match the font in the example Maureen gave him. Change it to larger text and match the typestyle.

Maureen also received a call from Ad-Venture Graphics in Succasunna that their sign design was ready to pick up. However, a few days after the call when she went down to get it, there was a 'on vacation' sign posted on the door. She will pick it up when they return on 11/14.

Trust Fund Balance

Robin stated there is \$28k in engineering costs incurred so far for the Frelinghuysen Recreation Complex that will be charged to the Open Space/Farmland Trust fund.

The balance for the NJCM (higher interest account) is \$96,133.67. (\$95k pulled from the trust fund last month).

The OS/Farmland Trust Fund has balance of \$98,330.16. The appraisals for the Reisberg property, in the amount of \$3600, were pulled from it. \$138,000 ultimately will come out of Open Space/Farmland trust for the acquisition cost of the 5 acre parcel next to Town Hall. Interest payment on the bond taken out last year is due in November for approximately \$11,000. Principal payment is not known by Open Space.

\$1,220 went to Warren County Soil Conservation.

There is a total of \$194,463.83 in the combined account.

Robin also mentioned there are 3 farms anticipating closure in Farmland Preservation by the end of the year. According to Farmland Preservation at its June meeting, funds used would be approximately \$155,000. There are about 5 or 6 farms in the pipeline to be considered for farmland preservation for next year. Total debt to be incurred by the trust fund is approximately \$321,000.

About \$26,000 will come in at the end of the year from Open Space taxes accrued throughout the year.

Recreation Support Letter

Tom Finn made motion to approve the draft of the recreation support letter. Seconded by Leigh Kramer. All aye.

OS Referendum Signs

Robin stated that after advice from legal counsel, open space signs purchased for the tax referendum question were contributed by private donors and not from the open space budget Leigh Kramer made motion to approve; Maureen Cullen seconded; Robin Randolph aye; Tom Finn abstained.

Reisberg

Dr. Reisberg will be home on Nov. 24. Robin will meet with the township committee on 11/21 in executive session. She plans to meet with Dr. Reisberg shortly after his returns home.

New Business:

Morris Land Conservancy Report. This month's report was distributed.

December Meeting change - suggested by Robin because of Christmas recital on Dec. 4 at the elementary school. She suggested Wed., Dec. 12.

Chipper Party date - Last chipper party was Oct 20. The sideline by the Drew's house needs to be cleared. Consider another party, possibly early spring -- before the mud. Robin advised that the Recreation Committee donated \$1,000 to help cover the costs of the chipper parties. Robin suggests sending a letter of thanks to them once monies are received.

Native Plant Exchange - Some residents have expressed an interest in this in the spring. This is where one brings a native plant to exchange with someone for another species. Tom Finn suggested that the purchase of some books on this topic be added to the 2008 budget, to start a library.

Public Comment -- none

Correspondence

Robin has not had a chance to review the statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Rich Derricks of the Environmental Commission had said he planned to attend the invite from the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation. If he went, we wait to hear what he has to tell us.

Misc.

- Robin read that Byram Twp. was creating a greenway consisting of 126 acres.
- At the polls, the Preservation Trust Fund passed for the state but not for Frelinghuysen Twp.
- The New Jersey Conservation Foundation is another place to look for funding.
- Budgets need to be handed in to the Township Committee.

Adjournment

Tom Finn made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m., Maureen Cullen second, all aye.