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EAST AMWELL FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PERSERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES: JUNE 11, 2018
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NEW JERSEY

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Present:

Members: Pete Fick, Chair, liaison Recreation Committee
 Erica Johanson, Vice Chair
 Richard Wolfe, Mayor's Designee, liaison Planning Board
 Tom Rue, Liaison Environmental Commission
 Barbara Sageser, Liaison Historic Preservation Committee

Absent:

 Joan Sank
 Tom Jarick
 Fred Gardner, alternate 2
 Candice Wiggum, Liaison Agricultural Advisory Committee

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Fick. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was stated that this was a regular meeting held pursuant to the meeting notice published in the January 11, 2018 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On May 31, 2018 notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk's Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the agenda was posted on the bulletin board.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting was open to the public for comments.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

A motion to approve the May 14 minutes was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Ms. Johanson. The minutes were approved.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

It was noted that the bill from Banisch to update the Open Space Map has not been received yet, but it is anticipated. It is anticipated that the bill will be approximately \$200.#

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Johanson brought up an item to add to the agenda. She noted that the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space has published a "Guide to Walking Trails in Hopewell Valley". Through the coordination of the Recreation and Parks Committee, FOSPC, and the Agricultural Advisory Committee, she was hoping that East Amwell could publish its own guide to trails. It was suggested that East Amwell has its own book of trails. It was noted that there are several websites, between the NJ Trail Association, D&R, and NJCF that have trail maps. Ms. Fullerton will check to see if there is a book of trails in East Amwell.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

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OLD BUSINESS

1. PTO Color Run/Greenfest Update

Ms. Fullerton provided an update on the combination of the Color Run and GreenFest. The communication between the PTO, the Environmental Commission, and FOSPC has been a little disjointed, particularly regarding what GreenFest was in the past and what the Color Run is. There was an email that afternoon that discussed the organizations to be invited. As the Color Run is a fundraiser, each organization would be expected to pay a \$25 fee for a vendor table. It was also not clear if the PTO would be willing to invite the community groups that usually participate in GreenFest. Ms. Fullerton confirmed with the Committee that GreenFest would not be GreenFest without these community groups.

It was noted that the name GreenFest is ecological as much as spring oriented. It was also noted that the Watershed groups and such organizations that come are educational and beneficial. As an ecological fair, it was suggested that we should include "green" businesses. There are a number of renewable energy companies to include. Ms. Fullerton will contact the PTO to review the participants to be invited. It was noted that there is a Clean Communities Foundation grant that could help with the table fees for smaller organizations.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Potential Farmland Preservation

There was a suggestion that committee members could each take a property on the list to work on for preservation. As Mr. Wolfe has begun work on two properties, it was decided that the Committee would wait for progress to be made through this route, prior to any work on the other properties. It was noted that many of the property owners on the list are older, so there is the potential of an emotional attachment to the land.

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

The total spent out of the Open Space Trust fund has gone up slightly, with the usual maintenance expenses for Clawson Park and the recreation fields. It was noted that there is a plan to have Clawson Park self-sustaining, so there will be less funds being used from the Open Space Trust Fund for park maintenance. The Trust Fund revenue has gone up to \$6,312.96, between more tax interest and a reimbursement from SADC for the purchase of the Barbara Hay property in 2014.

Mr. Fick and Ms. Fullerton met with County staff on May 16. There was not much business that occurred at this meeting. Ms. Fullerton has been working on getting the Lambertville Open Space Improvement and Maintenance Plan from the County and from Lambertville, with no success. As there will be another County staff meeting next week, Ms. Fullerton will work harder to get the document from the County, so the Township can begin working on the document.

SADC approved 60 Municipal and County PIG grants at their May meeting.

NJCF is working on the agriculture subdivision for the Higgins phase II. They have extended the option agreement for Wertsville Industries to the end of August, as they should know about the grant from the 1776 Foundation by mid-August.

At the last County staff meeting, Ms. Fullerton spoke with the County Economic Development Administrator about the naming rights program for Clawson House. He is interested, but would like more information, particularly a document outlining the specific program. Mr. Wolfe thinks he has

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such a document. The Historic Society is very busy preparing for the Open House on September 22. JCP&L has been tapped for funding for the recreation fields.

Historic Preservation Report:

The Clawson House renovation is coming along nicely. All the work is being prepared for the September 22 Open House. The electrical fixtures and kitchen sink are in, along with a panel of donated antique tiles. This summer, the furniture will be moved in, so the storage unit can be cancelled. They were able to find nice, light-weight display cases for free, rather than the anticipated thousands of dollars. The final report for the previous grant from Hunterdon County was completed, so Hunterdon County can consider the next grant for the Clawson House. There was a discussion of how to get young people interested in local history, so they could participate in the Clawson House.

Environmental Commission and Recycling Committee:

The Environmental Commission is preparing a letter to property owners regarding the easement review that needs to be done throughout the Township. The easements need to be walked, so the Commission is alerting residents of this through the letter. The Township Committee is approving the letter at its next meeting. The Township Committee had wanted the Planning Board, or the Township Planner, to conduct the Environmental Resource Inventory, but it was discovered that the Environmental Commission has to do this work.

The Recycling Depot was this past Saturday. They had 80% in paper and cardboard and 60% in plastic. There were 30 bags for Terracycle. There was not so much Styrofoam. #

Recreation and Parks Committee:

There will be two Friday Night in the Park this summer. There will be one on July 20 and one on August 17. The tennis courts have been repaired and opened.

CORRESPONDENCE

Stefanie Miller from the SADC sent out a May update. It covered the information from the May SADC meeting and the approval of the Rural Microenterprise Rules.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting was open to the public for comments. There was no public.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be July 9, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wolfe made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Johanson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary
_____ date _____