

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE: Adequate notice of this public meeting has been made in accordance with the 1975 Open Public Meetings Act inasmuch as a notice has been published in the New Jersey Herald, transmitted to the Star Ledger and posted at the Municipal Building, 150 Kennedy Road, Tranquility, NJ.

ROLL CALL: Louis Caruso, Richard Conklin, Daniel Conkling, Gladys Golder, Paul Nusbaum, and Jennifer Russ

Members Present: Louis Caruso, Richard Conklin, Daniel Conkling, and Gladys Golder
Also Present: Patty DeClesis, Open Space Committee Secretary

Members Absent: Paul Nusbaum and Jennifer Russ

Daniel Conkling motioned to excuse the absent members, seconded by Gladys Golder. No discussion. All Ayes. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes of March 1, 2017
Motion to approve minutes of March 1, 2017, was made by Daniel Conkling, seconded by Gladys Golder. No discussion. All Ayes. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Status and Update – County Connector Trail – Linda Glosinski provided an update from the Land Conservancy (attached to and made part of these minutes). Lou Caruso stated that Mark Zschack, Township Clerk/Administrator has been reviewing the ordinance adopted in 1997 which states that open space funds are designated only for acquisition and preservation of lands for open space. There would have to be a referendum at the General Election to add funds to be used for maintaining open space.

The Township Committee hired two new DPW employees. The Township can rent the equipment and have the DPW clear the trail from Kennedy Road to Trinca Airport.

2. Farmland Preservation Outreach – Letters have been sent to farm owners. Lou Caruso will work on a map of the farms in Green Township.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS FROM THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE: Daniel Conkling informed the Committee of an application submitted to the Land Use Board for property on Pequest Road. The proposal is for a 15,000 square foot alcohol and drug volunteer rehabilitation facility. The Land Use Board will also be looking to create zones to encourage more ratables.

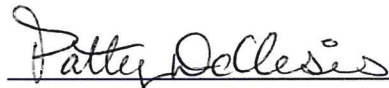
PUBLIC COMMENTS and/or QUESTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS: None

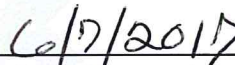
ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Gladys Golder, seconded by Daniel Conkling. No discussion. All Ayes. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patty DeClesis, Secretary



Date Approved



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Green Township Open Space Committee
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey - Status and Progress Report –April 2017
Linda Gloshinski, Land Preservation Specialist

County Connector Trail

The summary of the project was provided at the December Open Space Committee Meeting. The Township Department of Public Works was going to review the proposed project and the tree/vegetation removal to see what would be involved. The FECON Mulching machine would be highly recommended to complete the task. If needed, TLC-NJ could provide contractors that would be suitable to complete the task.

The Town Administrator, Mark Zschack, had requested information with respect to utilizing the Open Space funds for the work. A copy of what we had on file for the 1997 Ordinance was provided (see attached). I am not sure if this is the final adopted Ordinance and recommend discussing with the Township attorney to see what the Township's options are.

Farmland Preservation Outreach

TLC –NJ sent an email to the County on September 13th, prior to the Sept. 15th deadline, notifying the County that the town is still participating in the Muni PIG program. December 15, 2016 was the deadline to notify the State. With no projects on the horizon, the funds can be reprogrammed at any time.

Outreach was also sent out to eight (8) eligible farm owners in an effort to keep the Townships PIG funds. The letter went to the following: Mickikas; Kirby, Ady Associates, John Calasibetta; Greg Dobson; Jacob and Josephine Krotje; Pequest Road, LLC; Quarter Moon Farms, LLC.



RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF GREEN IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY, REQUESTING THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLERK TO SUBMIT
THE FOLLOWING NON-BINDING REFERENDUM TO THE VOTERS
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GREEN AT THE GENERAL ELECTION
OF NOVEMBER 4, 1997**

Whereas, the Township Committee concurs that the concept of preserving and protecting open space within the Township is of utmost importance; and

Whereas, this vital preservation can best be achieved by providing a definite long term fixed source of funding; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 19:37-1 authorizes the Township Committee to submit a question in order to ascertain the sentiment of the voters by including a non-binding referendum on the November 4, 1997 General Election Ballot.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Green as follows:

1. That the following non-binding referendum be forwarded to the Sussex County Clerk for inclusion on the November 4, 1997 General Election Ballot:

☐ Yes Shall the Township of Green adopt an ordinance establishing a "Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" which will have the following provisions:

☐ No.

- A. The "Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" shall be funded through the collection of a local property tax in an amount not to exceed \$.03 per One Hundred Dollars of assessed value.
- B. Said funds shall be designated solely for the purchase of property or easements within the Township of Green for the acquisition and preservation of lands for open space, recreation, conservation, farmland preservation and historic preservation. After five years, the Township Committee shall review continuation of additional funding for the "Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" and authorize the continuation or termination of the Fund.
- C. Any property or easement purchased by the "Municipal Open Space Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" shall not be sold or conveyed by the Township unless and until authorized by binding Public Referendum.

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

This non-binding referendum will give the elected officials of the Township of Green the sentiment of the voters concerning the establishment of a "Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund." This Fund would complement bonding and be used exclusively for the purchase of property or easements within the Township for the acquisition and preservation of lands for open space, recreation, conservation, farmland preservation and historic preservation through a dedicated tax on real property. The Township Committee will determine the yearly rate which will not exceed \$.03 per \$100 of assessed valuation. As an example, at the maximum rate of \$.03 the owner of a property assessed at \$400,000 would be contributing \$120.00 to the Open Space Trust Fund. Any property or easement purchased by the Open Space Trust Fund shall not be sold or conveyed unless and until authorized by binding Public Referendum. After five years, the Township Committee shall review the need for additional funding of the "Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" and recommend its continuation or termination.

- 2 The Sussex County Clerk is hereby requested to print the non-binding referendum and interpretive statement on the official ballot for the General Election to be held November 4, 1997.


Adopted:

TOWNSHIP OF GREEN
THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX

By:


MARK C. SKOVE, Mayor

Attest:


Lynn Stanzlaus, Clerk/Administrator

A:\GREEN\REFEREND.UJM