

OPEN SPACE MEETING – February 10 2025

Members Present: Mayor Rubenstein, Messrs. Sabatini, Duch, Bogardus, Dlugos

Members Absent: Messrs. Morytko, Esposito

Also present: Peter Dolan, Secretary Caitlin Phillips

Mayor Rubenstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OS Financial Status Report:

Reserve for OS- \$397,252.63 / Reserve for Debt Service- \$18,068.14

Approval of Minutes – January 13 2025 Minutes

Mr. Dlugos motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Sabatini. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Trails Conference Discussion

Mr. Dlugos introduced Peter Dolan, who works at the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Mr. Dolan provided a scope for the trails in town. They use GPS data and the OSRP. They will then be able to have digital maps and documents for each trail. He recommended walking the trails and identifying the ones that could be improved, and then recruiting people. They should see what's of the most interest, and what they could put in a workshop. Mr. Duch asked if the digital map is from Avenza. Mr. Dolan uses Google My Maps, which helps with locations and itinerary. This can be used by people who don't want an expensive mapping tool, and can use the Trail Conference's data. The Committee discussed making the map available to the public, and using QR codes. Mr. Duch asked about expectations of involvement. Mr. Dolan expects a lot of correspondence and input. Mr. Duch noted he sees the possibility of using this mapping for advertising. There was a discussion about different trail apps, including Trail Forks. Mr. Dolan noted his mapping system can't report issues. The Committee talked about maintaining the trails with volunteers.

Mayor Rubenstein noted they need to choose an app so the public knows which one the town maintains. Mr. Sabatini said they should keep the Environmental Commission involved, and that they should lead this with Open Space funding. People come in to the township office and ask for the printed trails map. There was further discussion of mapping tools. Mr. Sabatini noted there are a lot of mapping tools that may be used for things other than hiking. Mr. Dlugos noted Trail Forks needs a subscription. The Committee discussed being able to control and update the information on the app, and how it would appear in mobile versions. The group discussed adding Hudson Farms trails to the mapping. They discussed developing the trail map with Mr. Dolan, with the Environmental Commission as the owner of the project. The Environmental Commission would handle workshops and volunteers. Mr. Dolan said My Maps is free and uses GIS data, so they can start there. Mr. Duch asked about hard copy maps and Tyvek. Mr. Dolan noted Tyvek is hard to obtain, and recommended a free map that can be printed or downloaded. Mr. Duch noted there should be topographic information on the maps.

Mr. Sabatini noted he wants to support this project. They need an Environmental Commission proposal review this week—Mr. Dlugos will coordinate this. Mayor Rubenstein said they need to memorialize who is in charge of this, which would be the Environmental Commission. Mr. Sabatini motioned to support this with the changes, seconded by Mr. Bogardus. All were in favor. Mayor Rubenstein said this can be on the Council agenda Tuesday. Mr. Sabatini needs the information that Mr. Dlugos will collect from Mr. Dolan.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Duch said the Environmental Commission is updating their mission statement and reviewing 2025 goals, including invasive species. Mr. Bogardus Recreation Committee's Polar Plunge is coming up, and their spring brochure is out, which includes said the summer activities.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public was present.

ADJOURN – Motion by Mr. Duch, second by Mr. Dlugos, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. All members in favor. Motioned carried.