

OPEN SPACE MEETING – April 14 2025

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

Members Absent: Mr. Esposito

Also present: Secretary Caitlin Phillips

Mr. Morytko called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

OS Financial Status Report:

Reserve for OS- \$366,326.79

The group reviewed the report. Mayor Rubenstein noted the CO Johnson project is moving along.

Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2025 Minutes

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

OLD BUSINESS

Invasive Species

Mr. Morytko said they had a great meeting on site with the forester for the controlled burning conversation, and talked about public education. Mr. Dlugos said if they submit the application early, they can get the work done in late fall. Mr. Duch said they discussed invasive species, and he'd like to help the public see the before and after of the removal. They can put the group in contact with Mercer County, who does this often. Mr. Morytko said the weather is the biggest consideration to do this properly. Mr. Duch motioned to have Ms. Gracie prepare a draft of the application, seconded by Mr. Dlugos. Mr. Morytko said they can include a map. Mr. Sabatini said they should be conscious of notifying the public and make sure communication is set up. They had some concerns from the public about the quarry blasting. Mr. Duch said the Environmental Commission is monitoring the quarry work on a quarterly basis. Mr. Bogardus noted they have done Nixle alerts.

Mr. Dlugos said he met with Ms. Gracie at Glenside. She will have a conversation with Hudson Farms about invasive species. When visiting Glenside, they noted barberries, but not many, so it should be an easy removal.

Trails Conference Updates

Mr. Dlugos said they have workshops scheduled. They have one on 05/11, one about trail design on 06/07, and one for invasive species management on 06/22. Mr. Duch asked if this could be an opportunity for the Boy Scouts. Ms. Phillips noted Mr. Raffay, who was previously on the Open Space Committee, worked with the Boy Scouts. She will share his information with Messrs. Duch and Dlugos. Mr. Sabatini said they should share information about the project with Mr. Crosson to send out a Nixle notice.

Mr. Dlugos MyMap has been going well. He found that your location is visible in the event that you get lost. If they apply to the Trails Conference, they are required to appoint a supervisor of the Trails. He may volunteer for that if no one else is interested. He'd like to market this to adults with kids, to maybe have a junior trails program.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mayor Rubenstein said the trails expansion was postponed until May 14th. He said the Council will be discussing the CO Johnson Park improvements at tomorrow's meeting. He wants to ask the Council to help with the fieldhouse renovation, football field lighting, announcer's stand, and the potential scoreboard. The group discussed what's needed for the scoreboard.

Mr. Duch said the Environmental Commission supports the Trails Conference work and the controlled burns. Mr. Dlugos said the Township website is updated with the Environmental Commission's mission statement.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public was present.

ADJOURN – Motion by Mr. Duch, second by Mayor Rubenstein, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m. All members in favor. Motioned carried.