

TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
MEETING OF THE BYRAM TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
10 Mansfield Drive, Stanhope NJ 07874
Monday, June 10, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83658771824?pwd=RHI5MTd4WEpBaExJmBaZVRaSWcrdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 5877 1824 **Passcode:** 665500

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The public will have an opportunity to comment at appropriate times during the meeting. The following is the agenda to the extent known:

- **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting has been electronically sent to the newspapers, posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, and uploaded to Byram's website, www.byramtwp.org not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. In addition, a copy of this notice is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

- **ROLL CALL**

- **OS FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT**

1. Reserve for Open Space: \$346,086.38
2. Reserve for Debt Service: \$43,131.86

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –April 8 2024 Minutes

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Township Park Updates

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Forest Management ([Community Forestry Management Plan 2020-2024.pdf \(byramtwp.org\)](#))
 - a. Discussion of upcoming items (e.g. forest stand improvements and timber sale)
2. Recommendation of deer hunting on parcels

- **MEMBER REPORTS** – Reports from members on actions by their committees pertinent to OS.

- **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- **CLOSED SESSION**

- **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE COMMITTEE DEEMS NECESSARY**

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- June 15- Recreation's Sussex County Miner's Game Night
- June 23- Recreation's Frog Falls Water Park Day
- July 13- Kid's Triathlon

More Recreation Events Found At: [Byram Recreation Summer Programs and Events \(flipbuilder.com\)](#)

17-286-56-000-001 Reserve - Open Space

From 01/01/2024 to 05/22/2024

Date	Source	PO#	Contract#	Check #	Vendor#	Vendor/Description	Budget	Debit	Credit	PO Encumber	PO Payment	Balance (CR)*
02/08/2023	ENC	26591				ENGINEERING & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SERVICE				3,950.00		
08/23/2023	ENC	27521				DRAWDOWN #1				84,340.00		
08/23/2023	ENC	27510				ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CO JOHNSON PARK BAS				9.87		
						ACTIVITY/BALANCE (YEAR START)	-					360,435.56
01/01/2024	GJ 71					To adjust Open Space Debt Service for CY Allo		20,468.13				339,967.43
01/10/2024	DJ 12	27521		8086	3783	GREEN VALLEY GROUP, INC. DRAWDOWN #1				(43,238.78)	43,238.78	339,967.43
01/31/2024	RJ 1038					January 2024 Interest			2,040.12			342,007.55
02/21/2024	DJ 456			7687	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, Check Lost in		(1,267.00)				343,274.55
02/28/2024	ENC	28390				To reissue check #7687 issued 10/18/23 lost i				1,267.00		342,007.55
02/29/2024	RJ 1039					February 2024 Interest			1,862.92			343,870.47
03/06/2024	DJ 486	28390		8384	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, To reissue che				(1,267.00)	1,267.00	343,870.47
03/12/2024	ENC	28441				PREPARE REPORTS/MEMOS				425.25		343,445.22
03/20/2024	DJ 626	28441		8448	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, PREPARE REPORT				(425.25)	425.25	343,445.22
03/31/2024	RJ 1040					March 2024 Interest			1,997.54			345,442.76
04/30/2024	RJ 1619					April 2024 Interest			1,937.14			347,379.90
05/22/2024	DJ 1470	27521		8729	3783	GREEN VALLEY GROUP, INC. DRAWDOWN #2				(40,682.07)	40,682.07	347,379.90
05/22/2024	ENC	27521				(Increased) CHANGE ORDER #2 - APPROVED 05/21/				1,293.52		346,086.38
RANGE							-	19,201.13	7,837.72	(82,627.33)	85,613.10	346,086.38
							-	19,201.13	7,837.72	5,672.54	85,613.10	346,086.38

17-286-56-000-002 Reserve - Open Space (Debt Service)

From 01/01/2024 to 04/01/2024

Date	Source	PO#	Contract#	Check #	Vendor#	Vendor/Description	Budget	Debit	Credit	PO Encumber	PO Payment	Balance (CR)*
						ACTIVITY/BALANCE (YEAR START)	-					23,863.73
01/01/2024	GJ 71					To adjust Open Space Debt Service for CY Allo		20,468.13				44,331.86
03/26/2024	ENC	28507				SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENT - 2005 OPEN SPAC				1,200.00		43,131.86
04/01/2024	DJ 733	28507		2024022	2868	THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY SEMI-ANNUAL INTE				(1,200.00)	1,200.00	43,131.86
RANGE							-	-	20,468.13	-	1,200.00	43,131.86
							-	-	20,468.13	-	1,200.00	43,131.86

OPEN SPACE MEETING – April 8, 2024

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

Also present: Adrian Gonzalez, Secretary Caitlin Phillips

Mr. Morytko called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Nomination and Election of Chair and Vicechair of OS Committee

Mr. Sabatini nominated Mr. Morytko for Chair, seconded by Mr. Dlugos. No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed. All in favor

Mr. Sabatini nominated Mayor Rubenstein for Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Bogardus. No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed. All in favor.

OS Financial Status Report:

Reserve for OS- \$360,010.31 / Reserve for Debt Service- \$22,663.73

Mr. Sabatini said the debt service will close this year. The Council asked to review the Open Space Trust. The reserve for debt service's final payment is \$62,400. They're looking to encumber the OS tax for the CO Johnson project. There will be a reevaluation, which is meant to be revenue neutral. Mr. Duch asked if Open Space triggers the reassessment. Mr. Sabatini said no, this is every few years. Mayor Rubenstein joined the meeting at this time. Mr. Sabatini said they adjust the OS tax through the annual budget.

Approval of Minutes – February 12 2024 Minutes

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

OLD BUSINESS

Township Park Updates

Mr. Sabatini said French and Parrello met with the Mayor and Council. They were directed to proceed with Field 8 as the focus. They need to look at soil impacts. Mr. Sabatini is expecting the final project scope and going out to bid to occur in mid-June. They will likely go to the DEP in the fall. The work on Field 8 includes a new irrigation system, lights, and a press box. There will be a sister field where the detention basin will be relocated. Mr. Sabatini noted there is also a grant to repair the municipal building tennis court. They will add paths and increased parking with a permanent road.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Goals

Mr. Morytko said they should support the CO park project and inclusive playground. They should have a forestry evaluation and look into the timber sale, as well as support the trails committee. Mr. Sabatini discussed the Sussex County OS grant, which was used last time for trail markings. He said they should start defining a project now to figure out the funding. Mr. Dlugos is interested in joining the group to work on the project. He added that he has a background in Lenape history, and would love to weave that into any projects.

Community Based Deer Management Grant Application

Mr. Sabatini said in June the Committee determines parcels open for bow hunting deer. The deer management grant is due May 3rd. Mr. Dlugos is interested in the grant as a tracking piece and to help assess understory damage. Mr. Sabatini said if the Committee is interested in this, they can task the forester, paying her to do the

grant. He added they could find nuisance areas in town caused by the deer. Mr. Duch noted the deadline may be too soon. Mr. Morytko said he will reach out the Heather to see if this is feasible.

ANJEC Trails Grant

Mr. Dlugos said they're looking for ways to get updated maps online, as have printed maps for the town and at kiosks. Mr. Duch said they spoke to the Land Conservancy, who prepared them in the past. Mr. Dlugos said Avenza is a well-known product they could use. They want to be able to update the maps in the future. Mr. Sabatini said they will need to provide other quotes as backup. Mr. Morytko said they don't want what users log to be part of the official map. Mr. Duch said they need to add parking and gate information for trail users. Mr. Duch motioned to support the ANJEC grant and provide funding, in the suggested amount of \$2,500, seconded by Mr. Sabatini. All in favor. Mr. Dlugos will get the updated application by Wednesday.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Dlugos said the Recreation Director is looking to collaborate with the Environmental Commission on hikes, and bring a ranger for interpretive walks.

Mr. Duch asked Mr. Gonzalez how the trails committee is going. Mr. Gonzalez said it's mainly individual assessments of different trails, so pretty informal. He recommended some structure so people can pull together. Mr. Duch noted the Environmental Commission is planning a new trails project for trail day, possibly at the Cranberry Overlook. Mr. Dlugos said it's June 1st. Mr. Sabatini said the Land Conservancy was the town's consultant for a while, and then the town moved away from land acquisition, so changed to Greener By Design to develop the OSRP. They don't have an OS consultant now. Mr. Morytko will reach out to Heather to come to the next meeting. Mr. Sabatini asked the group to consider if they need an OS consultant.

ADJOURN –Motion by Mr. Sabatini, second by Mr. Dlugos, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m. All members in favor. Motioned carried.