

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

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83075301879?pwd=6vXHi0APOeGmf9WV0o7NFXD0wry0z0.1>

Meeting ID: 830 7530 1879 **Passcode:** 279536

Dial by your location: +1 646 518 9805 US (New York) OR +1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)

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: \$347,234.50
2. Reserve for Debt Service: \$18,068.14

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –June 10 2024 Minutes

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Township Park Updates: C.O Field 8
 - a. \$510,154.70 used from American Rescue Grant / \$56,650.51 used from Open Space Trust
2. Forest Management ([Forest Stewardship Plan \(byramtwp.org\)](http://ForestStewardshipPlan.byramtwp.org))
 - a. Discussion of upcoming items (e.g. forest stand improvements and timber sale)

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Budget Planning
 - a. Allocate funding for tree removal at school

- **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:

- Hudson Farms Charity Hike—10/12/2024
- The Great Pumpkin Train—10/20/2024
- Rockettes Bus Trip—12/08/2024

More Recreation Events Found At: [Fall/Winter 2024-25 Brochure \(flipbuilder.com\)](http://FallWinter2024-25Brochure.flipbuilder.com)

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

From 01/01/2024 to 10/02/2024

Date	Source	PO#	Contract#	Check #	Vendor #	Vendor/Description	Budget	Debit	Credit	PO Encumber	PO Payment	Balance (CR)
ACTIVITY/BALANCE (YEAR START)							-			88,299.87		360,435.56
1/ 1/2024	GJ 71					To adjust Open Space Debt Service for CY Allocation.		20,468.13				339,967.43
1/10/2024	DJ 12	27521		8086	3783	GREEN VALLEY GROUP, INC. INV#DRAWDOWN #1 DRAWDOWN #1				(43,238.78)	43,238.78	339,967.43
1/31/2024	RJ 1038					January 2024 Interest			2,040.12			342,007.55
2/21/2024	DJ 456			7687	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES,Check Lost in Mail		(1,267.00)				343,274.55
2/28/2024	ENC	28390				To reissue check #7687 issued 10/18/23 lost i				1,267.00		342,007.55
2/29/2024	RJ 1039					February 2024 Interest			1,862.92			343,870.47
3/ 6/2024	DJ 486	28390		8384	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, INV#78182 To reissue check #7687 issued 10/18/23 lost i				(1,267.00)	1,267.00	343,870.47
3/12/2024	ENC	28441				PREPARE REPORTS/MEMOS				425.25		343,445.22
3/20/2024	DJ 626	28441		8448	649	HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES, INV#79397 PREPARE REPORTS/MEMOS				(425.25)	425.25	343,445.22
3/31/2024	RJ 1040					March 2024 Interest			1,997.54			345,442.76
4/30/2024	RJ 1619					April 2024 Interest			1,937.14			347,379.90
5/22/2024	DJ 1470	27521		8729	3783	GREEN VALLEY GROUP, INC. INV#DRAWDOWN #2 DRAWDOWN #2				(40,682.07)	40,682.07	347,379.90
5/22/2024	ENC	27521				(Increased) CHANGE ORDER #2 - APPROVED 05/21/				1,293.52		346,086.38
5/31/2024	RJ 1928					May 2024 Interest			1,950.08			348,036.46
6/30/2024	RJ 2084					June 2024 Interest			1,772.77			349,809.23
7/ 3/2024	DJ 1836	27521		8948	3783	GREEN VALLEY GROUP, INC. INV#FINAL DRAWDOWN FINAL DRAWDOWN				(1,712.67)	1,712.67	349,809.23
7/31/2024	RJ 2629					July 2024 Interest			1,765.40			351,574.63
8/ 7/2024	ENC	29201				QPA SERVICES FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF REHABILIT				4,350.00		347,224.63
9/16/2024	ENC	27510				To Cancel Balance - Project Complete.				(9.87)		347,234.50
10/ 2/2024	DJ 2678	29201		9363	2829	THE CANNING GROUP, LLC INV#2024-03 QPA SERVICES FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF REHABILIT				(4,350.00)	4,350.00	347,234.50
							-	19,201.13	13,325.97	(84,349.87)	91,675.77	347,234.50

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

From 01/01/2024 to 10/02/2024

Date	Source	PO#	Contract#	Check #	Vendor #	Vendor/Description	Budget	Debit	Credit	PO Encumber	PO Payment	Balance (CR)
							-	19,201.13	13,325.97	3,950.00	91,675.77	347,234.50

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

From 01/01/2024 to 10/01/2024

Date	Source	PO#	Contract#	Check #	Vendor #	Vendor/Description	Budget	Debit	Credit	PO Encumber	PO Payment	Balance (CR)
ACTIVITY/BALANCE (YEAR START)							-					23,863.73
1/ 1/2024	GJ 71					To adjust Open Space Debt Service for CY Allocation.		20,468.13				44,331.86
3/26/2024	ENC	28507				SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENT - 2005 OPEN SPAC				1,200.00		43,131.86
4/ 1/2024	DJ 733	28507		2024022	2868	THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY INV#04/01/24 SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENT - 2005 OPEN SPAC			(1,200.00)		1,200.00	43,131.86
9/12/2024	ENC	29357				PRINCIPAL PAYMENT - 2005 OPEN SPACE BOND				60,000.00		(16,868.14)
9/12/2024	ENC	29358				SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENT - 2005 OPEN SPAC				1,200.00		(18,068.14)
10/ 1/2024	DJ 2601	29357		2024081	2868	THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY INV#10/01/24 PRINCIPAL PAYMENT - 2005 OPEN SPACE BOND			(60,000.00)		60,000.00	(18,068.14)
10/ 1/2024	DJ 2602	29358		2024082	2868	THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY INV#10/01/24 SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENT - 2005 OPEN SPAC			(1,200.00)		1,200.00	(18,068.14)
							-	- 20,468.13		-	62,400.00	(18,068.14)
							-	- 20,468.13		-	62,400.00	(18,068.14)

OPEN SPACE MEETING – June 10, 2024

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

Also present: Secretary Caitlin Phillips

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

OS Financial Status Report:

Reserve for OS- \$346,086.38 / Reserve for Debt Service- \$43,131.86

Mr. Morytko said they will finish the debt service this year. Mr. Sabatini said the Open Space tax reports are not posted yet.

Approval of Minutes – April 8 2024 Minutes

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

OLD BUSINESS

Township Park Updates

Mr. Sabatini said French and Parello attended a recent Council meeting to review the final scope for Field 8, and determined the cost would be an estimated \$1.8 million, which was challenged by a Council member, so no action was taken at the meeting. If the work is approved, it would go out for bid. Mr. Sabatini noted Mayor Rubenstein asked for the item to be carried, to look at the projects. There is no final scope for the C.O Johnson project yet.

They received a local recreation grant for the tennis courts at the municipal building. The work is estimated to cost \$306,000, and the grant was in the amount of \$65,000. The Council aims to use ARP funds to help with the project. Mr. Duch asked what the scope of the use for ARP funds is. Mr. Sabatini said there are no restrictions, but the Council wants to spend them on recreation. Mr. Dlugos asked what part is not moving forward. Mr. Sabatini said C.O Johnson Park has a lot of improvements, and the Council determined they wanted to focus on field 8.

NEW BUSINESS

Forest Management

Mr. Morytko said Heather will come to their August meeting. They've discussed the timber sale and forest stand improvements, as well as stewardship. They may do a site visit before the next meeting. He said they should discuss what their priorities are, to coordinate with Heather. They have looked at Cranberry Overlook and invasives at Tamarack. Mr. Dlugos said he looked at the Forest Management plan; Mr. Sabatini said this is something the Environmental Commission worked on. Mr. Duch asked about training for EC members. Mr. Sabatini said it's laid out in the plan, and there are state classes. He said Heather should review what was and wasn't done in the plan. Mr. Duch said she should look at new invasives that have come up since last time. Mr. Morytko said if anyone has other thoughts, they can forward them over and he will discuss with Heather. Mayor Rubenstein entered the meeting around this time.

Recommendation for Deer Hunting on Parcels

Mr. Dlugos asked if all standard rules apply to this hunting. Mr. Morytko said the seasons apply, and they require people to register. Mr. Sabatini said it's in the town code, and it's only bow hunting that's allowed. He noted he doesn't have any resources to manage this program, so it's self-managed. People have left stands in the

woods, and at the location at Tamarack, there were trees cut down on Township property. He recommended going back to what was proposed about 3 years ago for the parcels. This program was implemented to be a low impact way to manage deer populations, but doesn't know if it's been very effective. Mayor Rubenstein asked who hunts in a year. Mr. Sabatini said it's around 5-25 people who register, and the Clerk can provide the statistics, but not how often people hunt or for how long. Mr. Duch asked if buffers are set up on the trails. Mr. Sabatini said no, because then people couldn't hunt. With the setbacks of the structures, there would be no room. Mr. Morytko said they rely on people doing this responsibly.

Brian LoVerdi from the public said the permits provided say you can hunt Saturday and Sundays but the State says there is no hunting on Sundays, so the permit should be updated. He noted Cindy is good about making sure people get their reports in—you won't be able to get one for the year unless the previous year's report has been submitted. He noted he's felt an impact on having the Tamarack hunting area closed. Most people went to Cranberry Overlook, and agrees he sees tree stands on the trail, as well as off-leash dogs. He's advocating for opening Tamarack again for hunting. Deer are doing damage in the Forest Lakes area.

James Myers from the public asked about deer management in the Forest south area. Mr. Sabatini said Heather should be asked, but the property was found to be too narrow, and there are properties on both sides. He motioned to have the parcels listed from 3 years ago opened. Cranberry Overlook has gotten bigger—they can check the maps. Mr. Bogardus seconded this motion. All were in favor. Mr. Morytko said they can send this recommendation to the Council.

MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Duch said for National Trails Day, the Environmental Commission did a trail building exercise. They discussed easements on properties; Mr. Dlugos suggested Tilcon. Mr. Sabatini said they should make sure they have the Council's support before doing anything. He recommended talking to CAD since they are coming to the Board soon. Mayor Rubenstein said they should talk to them before the meeting in July, but first look at the parcel maps and see where they'd like the project to be. He recommended it not be asked as an easement, but rather a long-term agreement.

Mr. Dlugos said the Environmental Commission didn't get the ANJEC grant for the town maps. They were told they could receive feedback on the grant application. Mr. Duch said they are planning to do a winter raptor presentation. Mr. Dlugos said they could walk the trails to map shapefiles. Mr. Sabatini suggested asking the Open Space to recommend the funds to the Council for the project. Mr. Duch noted they should get the grant feedback first. Mr. Dlugos said the Environmental Commission had a special meeting with the Musconetcong Water Association to discuss source pollution. They also discussed watersheds, and wanted to see if this is something he could bring up with the Open Space Committee. Mr. Sabatini said Lake Lackawanna Investment Company is doing work with catch basins because silt blocks the drains. There is also grant funding work going on for stormwater management. He noted they can reach out to Princeton Hydro for final comments, and can send the stormwater regulations to Mr. Dlugos, along with the website link for what's needed.

Mr. Duch asked if Board applications are available to be viewed. Mr. Morytko said they can, through the town, but are not posted online.

Mr. Morytko opened to the public and no one spoke, so he closed to the public. Mr. Sabatini said the committee should put together a budget plan for the groups they want to support and the potential expenses.

ADJOURN –Motion by Mr. Morytko, second by Mr. Duch, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m. All members in favor. Motioned carried.

From: [John Morytko](#)
To: [Caitlin Phillips](#)
Subject: Re: Open Space Agenda
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:17:20 AM

Caitlin - here are Heather's recommendations:

As promised, the following is a summary of the highlights of our discussion to move forward with forestry activities for 2024/2025. These activities can be reviewed and discussed with the Open Space Committee leading up to the next OS meeting this fall.

In summary, Tamarack, Glenside and Cranbury Overlook are viewed as the priority properties. Under the Farr Forest Stewardship Plan the focus of activities include non-native plant control, forest stand improvement, tree planting and selective timber management (Glenside).

Tamarack Park

- Continue to control non-native plants. Both volunteer groups and professional contractors can be utilized with a target of 2 to 3 acres annually. G & H Consulting Foresters, Inc. can help designate areas of control. Manual, Mechanical and selective use of herbicides can be utilized.
- Trails should be periodically monitored for hazardous trees. The beech leaf disease (BLD) is a newer threat to the region and should be monitored especially along trails. Volunteers from the Trails Committee can be trained by G & H as needed to help monitor trail safety.

Glenside Park

- Currently, 198 timber trees over 17 acres (Stand 22) have been marked within Stand 22 with an estimated yield of 44,755 board feet of timber. A Harvest Plan has been prepared and will be submitted with the New Jersey Forest Service for review and approval. Subject to approval by the OS, the sale can be put out to bid this fall for a winter harvest. The desirable outcome for such a harvest would help to release more vigorous trees from competition and to advance the regrowth of existing and new regeneration of trees. As discussed with John, silvicultural based timber harvests can be a sensitive issue on public lands and there may be considerable opposition to this harvest. I suggest that we put this out to bid to determine the sale value. Proceeds from the harvest should serve to implement future stewardship activities throughout the Bryam Township forest lands.
- On average, 2 acres/year of non-native plant control should be applied to throughout the forest with highlights of work to be conducted within Stands 21 and 22.
- Consider the expansion of trails throughout Glenside. At our 2022 site visit we discussed the proper skid trail layout at the time of timber harvest will help create new desired trails.
- Similar to Tamarack, existing and any new trails should continue to be monitored for safety.

Cranbury Overlook

- Continue to monitor and maintain trails for site safety.
- Continue to monitor site for non- native plants especially while they are low levels.
(Likely manual removal through volunteers since levels are low)
- Consider a second forest stand improvement similar to the one conducted in Stand 20 in 2021/2022.

In addition to the above, the deer management program should continue to be encouraged and results monitored over time. Gracie and Harrigan can continue to work within the scope of the Farr FSP to help guide future activities throughout the above and other Township owned forested properties.

Respectively submitted,

Heather J. Gracie, SAF, CF

On Tue, Oct 1, 2024 at 3:17 PM Caitlin Phillips <cphillips@byramtwp.org> wrote:

Works for me, thank you!

All the best,

Caitlin Phillips

Land Use Technical Assistant

973-347-2500 ext. 132



From: John Morytko <morytko@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 3:14 PM

To: Caitlin Phillips <cphillips@byramtwp.org>

Subject: Re: Open Space Agenda

How about 11am?