

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

OPEN MEETING:

Mr. Pfeiffer called the regular meeting of the Harding Open Space Trust Committee to order at 7:35 p.m. and announced the meeting was called in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

HOST Attendance: Ms. Devine, Mr. Dietz, Mr. Jones, Mr. Novotny, Mr. Pfeiffer, Mr. Platt, Mrs. Riley, Mr. Sovolos, and Mr. Wepler

Excused Absence: Mrs. Somers

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Members of the Public: None

MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2019:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if there were any comments or changes with regards to the April 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Mr. Wepler, seconded by Mr. Jones, Mr. Sovolos abstained, and with a votes of all ayes, none opposed, the HOST meeting minutes for April 10, 2019, were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

HOST Management Plans:

A discussion regarding management plans ensue. Mr. Wepler had a listing of Harding Open Space Properties and the HOST committee went through each property as follows:

Margetts Field – Mr. Wepler explained that Margetts Field is broken out into three parts: Woods; Hay Field, and the piece along Featherbed Lane.

Frelinghuysen Fields – Wexford Lane/James Street – It was mentioned that a section of the field along Oxford has been mowed. A discussion regarding enforcement capabilities ensued. Mrs. Devine mentioned that Harding Land Trust's policy on their owned land is to make a phone call for the first offense, write a friendly letter if there is a second offense, and for a third offense a letter is sent by the Harding Land Trust Attorney with a copy to the Harding Police. The recommendation from the HOST Committee was to send a memorandum to the Township Administrator regarding the Committee's concern and mention that this is the third time the field has been mowed. Mrs. Sharp will notify the Township Administrator of HOST's concern.

Rosell – The Rosell property is on Bailey's Mill Road. Mr. Wepler reported this property is wooded and has a stream running through it. The recommended goal for this property is to leave the property as is. No maintenance necessary.

Scudder – This property is on Post House Road. The Township owns 18% and the Audubon owns 82%. The

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recommended goal is to leave the property as is. No maintenance necessary.

Waterman – The Township owns 21.87%. The recommended goal is to leave the property as is. Harding Land Trust has no plans to do anything for this property at this time. Mowing once or twice a year.

Lakeshore – Mr. Wepler reported this property is off of Bailey’s Mill Road. The property is wooded like the Rosell property. Same recommended goal as Rosell.

Gatehouse – A brief discussion ensued regarding the Gatehouse. The goal will be to implement the grant applicant if Harding Land Trust is successful.

Anderson Woods – The Township owns 3.3%, Harding Land Trust owns 78% and the Audubon owns 18%. No maintenance on this property.

Eggert – This property is wet and there could possibly be a linkage between the Glen Alpin and Hurstmont property.

Von Zuben – This property currently has a management plan. A wildflower meadow was tried but the results were not successful. The management plan goal is to take care of invasives by mowing once or twice a year.

Primrose – The Township owns the section between the driveway and Barrett Field up to the gate on the driveway. Mr. Wepler mentioned that the Land Trust will submit a proposal for boardwalks on the wet areas. The preliminary estimate for these boardwalks would be a few thousand dollars. Mrs. Devine mentioned that the Harding Land Trust goals for their portion of Primrose are multiple mowing’s of the field per year along with monthly mowing’s on the perimeter for the next few years.

Frelinghuysen Management Plan – These are the two properties along Sand Spring Lane; one each owned by the Harding Land Trust and the Township. The properties are jointly managed by the Harding Land Trust. The management plan goals is to mow two (2) times a year.

Dear – The Township owns two lots of 5 acres each. The current management plan is not appropriate for this property. Upon a discussion, it was recommended that the HOST Committee review the Dear property and present a new management plan with goals to the Township Committee. Mr. Dietz suggested that since several members are not familiar with the Dear property that a site visit be conducted. The HOST Committee will conduct a site visit of the Dear property on July 10, 2019 at 7 pm. After the site visit the regular meeting of the HOST Committee will reconvene at the Kirby Municipal Building to discuss the goals of the management plan. Mr. Jones will contact the Crosby’s’ to notify them that a site visit will be conducted on July 10th at 7 pm. Mr. Pfeiffer asked what the vision of Dear is? Mr. Wepler mentioned that the property is currently mowed once a year. It was recommended that mowing go to two times a year. Mr. Jones mentioned that the focus of Dear should be at the lower field. The lower field requires some tree work and has invasives.

Boundary Markers

Mr. Wepler reported that the HOST properties should have some type of boundary marker on them. A discussion regarding the following types of markers ensued:

- * Plastic Markers
- * Concrete Markers

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- * Red Markers – which could identify that the property is an open space property
- * Yellow Markers – that are four inches wide and about four feet high

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE HOST AND HEARING PERSONS PRESENT:

With no persons present and no further business a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:32 pm was made by Mr. Weppler and seconded by Mr. Jones.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Pfeiffer

Upon return to open session at 8:58 p.m., and with no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pfeiffer seconded by Mr. Jones, with all members in unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee