

**HARDING TOWNSHIP  
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020  
21 BLUE MILL ROAD, NEW VERNON, NJ 07976**

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**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**OPEN MEETING:**

Mr. Wepler, Vice Chairman called the regular meeting of the Harding Open Space Trust Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**HOST Attendance:** Ms. Devine, (telephone), Mr. Dietz (telephone), Mr. Jones, Mr. Novotny, Mr. Pfeiffer (telephone), Mr. Platt, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. Somers, and Mr. Wepler

**Excused Absence:** None

**Township Attendance:** Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

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**ACCEPTANCE OF THE HOST MINUTES FOR: SEPTEMBER 9, 2020:**

***September 9, 2020 Minutes:***

Mr. Wepler asked if anyone had questions or comments with regard to the September 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Somers, seconded by Mrs. Riley, Mr. Wepler abstained, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the September 9, 2020 meeting minutes were accepted.

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**HOST UPDATES:**

**Dear Property:**

A recommendation to look into the ruts made by motorized vehicles on the Township owned property was discussed.

**Bayne Park Trees:**

A discussion on the trees at Bayne Park ensued. Mr. Pfeifer explained trees require work. Someone will have to water them. Who will do this and who will pay for this. A recommendation was made to have an assessment of all the trees conducted at Bayne Park. Mr. Platt reported he will handle this and get an assessment of the trees conducted at no fee.

**Open Space Tax:**

A discussion ensued regarding raising the open space tax from four cents to five cents. Mr. Platt explained if the Township will be conducting stewardship of open space properties, HOST should increase the open space tax. Mr. Pfeiffer and Mr. Platt commented that stewardship of all open space properties could break HOST.

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**HOST ORDINANCE REVIEW:**

A review of the HOST ordinance ensued. A discussion regarding passive and active recreation, grant components for public access, adding information to the management plans, motorized vehicles not allowed on open space properties, etc. ensued. It was recommended to start with Margett's Field and Bayne Park as these two properties are very important open space properties.

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

*Correspondence From Mt. Kemble Regarding Japanese Knotweed*

A discussion ensued regarding the correspondence received from Mt. Kemble Lake on Japanese Knotweed. Mr. Novotny reported that the Environmental Commission is reviewing this. Mrs. Sharp explained a copy of this correspondence was sent to both the Environmental Commission and HOST. Mr. Wepler recommends that HOST wait to see what Environmental Commission says about this.

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**HOST NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

*Lee's Hill Road Property* – Mr. Jones reported that a Phase One was ordered. This property will provide direct access to the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge. The second reading of the ordinance will be conducted at the November Township Committee meeting.

*Appleton 2* – Mr. Jones reported that the asking price is \$1.6 million. The owner is not interested in selling the property at this time.

*New Business* – A discussion on future properties was discussed. A recommendation was made to have another conversation with the owner of the Kremetz property. Mr. Novotny commented if it was possible to seek property along the Route 287 corridor wall. A brief discussion ensued regarding the corridor of Route 287.

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**ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Wepler**

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Platt. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp  
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee