

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022
21 BLUE MILL ROAD, NEW VERNON, NJ 07976**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OPEN MEETING:

Mr. Pfeiffer opened the meeting by announcing adequate notice of this February 9, 2022 HOST meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

HOST Attendance: Mr. Bjorkedal, Ms. Chipperson, Mr. DeNave, Mr. Jones, Mr. Novotny, Mr. Pfeiffer, and Mrs. Somers

Excused Absence: Ms. Devine and Mr. Wepler

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Public Attendance: Mr. & Mrs. Brad Johnston

ACCEPTANCE OF THE HOST MINUTES FOR: JANUARY 12, 2022:

January 12, 2022 Minutes:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if anyone had questions or comments with regard to the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes. J. Somers had sent an email for several spelling corrections. Mrs. Sharp amended the minutes to reflect the corrections. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Somers, seconded by Mr. Jones, Mr. Bjorkedal abstained, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the amended January 12, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

Appleton #2

T. Jones reported that the final settlement agreement was signed this evening for \$1,005,693 for the Appleton #2 property. A brief discussion ensued.

P. Pfeiffer announced that Mr. Johnston from Circle Holly Farms, LLC is here this evening to provide an update on Margett's field.

Margett's Field

B. Johnston provided a soil analysis report to each member of the HOST Committee and reported the current soil pH is 6.2. (*A copy of the soil analysis report is appended to these minutes.*) The optimal range is between 6.2 and 7.0. B. Johnston reported each year the field is sprayed with herbicide and lime and a walking path is mowed. B. Johnston explained he would like to continue what he has been doing as the field is in great shape. B. Johnston mentioned that fertilizer has increased but would continue to ask the Township to reimburse for just the fertilizer which is about \$2,800. B. Johnston will continue to pay

for all other applications. A question was asked how many times a year is the field mowed. B. Johnston explained that the perimeter is mowed about five to six times a year. There is thistle in the field and milkweed which is not too bad. J. Novotny explained on an environmental standpoint, could signs be displays when spraying the field. B. Johnston reported that white flags are placed when spraying. HOST informed B. Johnston that the Township is celebrating its Centennial this year and will have an event on the field for October 1, 2022. A further discussion ensued.

B. Johnston mentioned the field at the top of Margetts that is for warm season grasses. The field is mowed in the fall but if it is to be a warm season meadow, it should be mowed in the spring. B. Johnston mentioned if that portion of the field is not for warm season grasses and HOST would like this field hayed, B. Johnston will be happy to do this. J. Novotny will bring this up at their next Environmental Commission meeting.

Mapping

V. DeNave reported on mapping of Open Space properties. V. DeNave commented he would like to have a link on the website that would have the map color coded which would show privately owned Open Space and Town owned Open Space, show bridle paths, how the properties were preserved, etc. A discussion ensued. J. Somers commented that V. DeNave should speak with Ben Spinelli regarding the conservation blueprints and the Highlands interactive map.

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

T. Jones explained that the Civic Association was to hold "Meet the Township Committee" in February but due to scheduling problems, a new date of March 9, 2022 was proposed. This is the date of the March HOST meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the March HOST meeting. It was recommended to cancel the March meeting and meet in April 2022. Mrs. Sharp will send a reminder notice of no meeting in March.

L. Pfeiffer asked that a budget update for HOST be presented at the April 13, 2022 meeting.

There were no hearing persons present.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by T. Jones and J. Somers. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee