

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021
21 BLUE MILL ROAD, NEW VERNON, NJ 07976**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Reorganization Meeting Minutes

OPEN MEETING:

Secretary Sharp opened the reorganization meeting of the Harding Open Space Trust Committee to order at 7:35 p.m. and announced the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Mrs. Sharp welcomed Mr. Bjorkedal and Mrs. Chipperson to the Open Space Trust Committee. Secretary Sharp called the roll as follows:

HOST Attendance: Mr. Bjorkedal (GoToMeeting), Ms. Chipperson (In Person), Ms. Devine, (GoToMeeting), Mr. Jones (In Person), Mr. Novotny (GoToMeeting), Mr. Pfeiffer (GoToMeeting), Mrs. Riley (GoToMeeting), and Mr. Wepler (GoToMeeting)

Excused Absence: Mrs. Somers

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary (In Person)

Public Attendance: 1

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN:

Chair:

Secretary Sharp opened the meeting to accept nominations for the office of Chair of HOST for 2021. Mr. Wepler made a motion to nominate Mr. Pfeiffer for Chair of HOST and Mr. Novotny seconded the motion. Secretary Sharp asked if there were any further nominations for Chair. With no further nominations, Secretary Sharp closed the nominations with a motion made Mr. Wepler and seconded by Mrs. Riley. Upon a vote of all ayes none opposed the nominations for Chair were closed.

Secretary Sharp asked for a motion to elect Mr. Pfeiffer as Chair of HOST. Upon a motion to elect Mr. Pfeiffer as Chair of HOST by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Riley, and with a unanimous vote of all ayes, none opposed, Mr. Pfeiffer was accepted as Chair.

Vice Chair:

Mrs. Sharp asked for nominations for Vice Chair of HOST. Mr. Jones nominated Mr. Wepler as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Novotny seconded the nomination. Mr. Wepler respectfully declined due to too much on his plate. After much discussion and with no further nomination, a recommendation was made that the Vice Chair position be

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shared. A discussion regarding sharing the Vice Chair position ensued. A motion was made to nominate Mr. Weppeler, Mr. Novotny, and Mrs. Somers as shared Vice Chairs. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Devine and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Secretary Sharp asked if there were any further nominations for Vice Chair. With no further nominations, Secretary Sharp closed the nominations with a motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Ms. Devine. Upon a vote of all ayes, none opposed, nominations for Vice Chair were closed.

Secretary Sharp asked for a motion to accept a shared Vice Chair position for Mr. Weppeler, Mr. Novotny, and Mrs. Somers. Upon a Motion made by Mr. Pfeiffer, seconded by Mr. Jones, and with a vote of ally ayes, the motion was accepted.

Mrs. Sharp turned the meeting over to Mr. Pfeiffer, Chairman.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE HOST MINUTES FOR: DECEMBER 9, 2020:

December 9, 2020 Minutes:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if anyone had questions or comments with regard to the December 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Mrs. Riley commented that on page one under HOST updates, the sentence that starts with Mrs. Devine, the street name Wexler should be Wexford. Mrs. Sharp will amend the meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Mr. Weppeler, seconded by Mr. Jones, Mr. Bjorkedal and Mrs. Chipperson abstained, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the December 9, 2020 amended meeting minutes were accepted.

HOST RESOLUTION #01-2021 – MEETING DATES:

Mrs. Sharp explained the meeting dates will be the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm and will be a hybrid meeting of in-person and GoToMeeting. Mr. Pfeiffer asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting dates. With no comments a motion was made by Mrs. Devine and seconded by Mrs. Riley to accept the meeting dates for the Open Space Trust Committee for 2021. With a roll call of all ayes, none opposed the meeting dates for 2021 were accepted. A copy of the Meeting Dates is appended to these minutes.

HOST UPDATES:

163 Lee's Hill Road:

Mr. Jones commented that the removal of the house will be discussed at the January 18, 2021 Township Committee meeting. The house is in good shape maybe it should go out for bid to be purchased and moved. Mr. Jones reported the Township has discussed with the Wild Life Refugee regarding the White Oak Trail. A question was asked if fishing would be allowed as there is a nice place to fish there. Mr. Pfeiffer commented that this is a wonderful accomplishment. Mr. Pfeiffer requested a summary for February's HOST meeting on all 2020 property acquisitions. Mr. Jones will provide this to Secretary Sharp.

Glen Alpin Disposal/Diversion:

Mr. Jones discussed the procedures for the January 28, 2021 public hearing commencing at 7:30 pm. Mr. Jones will forward a one page synopsis of those hearings to all HOST members. The Township Committee will open the meeting as a regular meeting and then pass it over to Mr. Ben Spinelli. All

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participants are to register for the meeting with Mrs. Sharp. A discussion ensued regarding the process after the January 28, 2021 meeting.

Remembrance of Mr. Dietz:

All HOST members remembered Mr. David Dietz, who was a long time member of the HOST Committee. A discussion ensued regarding a recognition of Mr. Dietz possibly at a Township Committee meeting with a framed resolution, etc. It was recommended at the end of the meeting that a moment of silence be conducted in remembrance of him.

New Members:

Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Nik Bjorkedal who is a member of the Planning Board and will be the liaison to HOST for that Board.

Mr. Jones welcomed Mrs. Chipperson who is the Mayor's Designee for HOST. Mrs. Chipperson is a welcomed edition to HOST and we look forward to her fresh new ideas.

Boundary Markers:

A discussion regarding properties that should received boundary markers and what process should be taken when a violation takes place. Mr. Bjorkedal commented on process Harding Land Trust takes when there is a violation of one of their properties. It was recommended that HOST review the Land Trust's process. Mr. Bjorkedal will send a copy to Mrs. Sharp's attention. Mrs. Divine commented that Harding Township's process should be similar to the Land Trust's process regarding violations.

Other Matters:

Mr. Novotny commented that the Environmental Commission asked him to report on the invasive species survey. They looked at the Koven property and James Street; has their been a change, is it getting worse. If HOST has any input Mr. Novotny will bring it back to the Environmental Commission. A discussion ensued regarding Japanese knotweed and the deer population. Mr. Novotny commented that the Environmental Commission will have a future public meeting regarding invasive species.

Harding Township Centennial:

Mrs. Chipperson will be the Chair of Harding Township's Centennial (2022) and is currently in the planning stage. Would like input and help from HOST, Historical Society, Environmental Commission, etc. Mrs. Chipperson commented their will be an adult only gala and a family event at Margetts Field. Mrs. Chipperson explained it would be helpful to have chairs for each of the different events. Mrs. Devine commented their can be hiking, a run through Primrose, events where the children bring their pet (goat, dog, pig, etc.) Mr. Novotny mentioned contacting the school and have the children make banners and logos. Mrs. Riley commented that the Historical Society could assist; they have native American artifacts, historical pictures, can do then and now pictures, etc. Mr. Novoty commented that he would like to see the 100 year transition of Open Space; how did the town look then, the Police, Fire, School, etc.

Mrs. Devine commented if a website is being made, having continuous pictures would be nice. Mrs. Chipperson asked to please send all volunteer recommendations to her attention.

New Business:

NJDOT Properties – Mr. Jones reported that the agreement is with the Attorney General's office. Mr. Jones will contact Mr. Field for an update.

New Business – Mr. Jones asked members of HOST to think about a property acquisition for 2021.

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

Hearing no comments from the member of the public, HOST conducted a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. David Dietz.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Weppler and Mr. Novoty. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee