

HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021
21 BLUE MILL ROAD, NEW VERNON, NJ 07976

Meeting Minutes

OPEN MEETING:

Chairman Pfeiffer opened the July 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Harding Open Space Trust Committee to order at 7:36 p.m. and announced the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

HOST Attendance: Ms. Chipperson, Ms. Devine, Mr. Jones, Mr. Novotny, Mr. Pfeiffer, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. Somers, and Mr. Weppler

Excused Absence: Mr. Bjorkedal

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Public Attendance: None

ACCEPTANCE OF THE HOST MINUTES FOR: MAY 12, 2021:

May 12, 2021 Minutes:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if anyone had questions or comments with regard to the May 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Devine amended the paragraph for Bridge on Cherry Lane. M. Devine read the corrected paragraph to the HOST Committee. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Weppler, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the amended May 12, 2021 minutes were accepted. Mrs. Sharp will amend the minutes.

HOST UPDATES:

Markers for Open Space Properties:

T. Jones commented which Open Space properties does the HOST Committee see the aluminum markers being placed. A discussion ensued regarding which properties. A consensus of the HOST Committee was to start with the following properties: Wexford Lane, James Street, and Margetts Field. A recommendation was made to place an email blast or notice regarding Harding's Open Space properties in the thumbnail and paper to educate the residents.

Bayne Park Trees:

L. Weppler reported that in 2020, the HOST Committee had a discussion regarding the trees at Bayne Park. A suggestion, at that time, was to have a survey or assessment of the trees and mark which trees are dying and diseased. At the Township Committee meeting held on July 12, 2021, J. Novotny conducted a presentation to the Township Committee regarding the tree repository project in the back of the Harding School, and L. Weppler suggested the trees at Bayne Park be looked at so that in fifty years, the park

Harding Open Space Trust Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021

looks like it does now. Trees that are dying will need to be replaced. The Township Committee suggested that HOST contact Mr. dePorteere and Ms. Wilson who are on the CPAC Committee and discuss the trees at Bayne Park. A discussion ensued. A recommendation was made for a memorandum from HOST be sent to the CPAC Committee. L. Wepler will draft the memorandum.

163 Lee's Hill Road:

T. Jones reported that the house located at 163 Lee's Hill has been demolished. The shed with the water house will remain and the septic will be abandoned.

Glen Alpin Disposal/Diversion:

T. Jones explained that the State House Commission gave their approval for the Glen Alpin Disposal/Diversion. T. Jones mentioned that the next item is regarding the Morris County Preservation and to have the Township out of the easement. Morris County Preservation is looking for the Township to repay \$631,000 at the time of sale. A discussion ensued regarding the \$631,000. T. Jones commented that the Morris County Historic Preservation Commission does not have the power to make this decision on how much is repaid, the Morris County Commissioners will need to vote and approve this topic. The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2021 with the Morris County Board of County Commissioners for the second part of the Local Lands and Buildings Law (NJSA 40A:12-1). The first public hearing was conducted at the Kirby Municipal building on July 6, 2021. The full meeting of the Morris County Board of County Commissioners will be held on August 11, 2021.

NJDOT Property:

T. Jones reported that the Township closed on the NJDOT property and paid \$22,000.00.

Appleton Property:

A discussion ensued regarding the second Appleton property. Mr. Jones commented that Mr. Roselli, Township Attorney, explained that the Township can only pay what the appraised value is. Mr. Roselli will again reach out to representatives of Mrs. Appleton. T. Jones reported that the property is currently on the market for \$1.4 million.

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

Centennial:

R. Chipperson provided an update on the video interview for the Centennial.

Open Space:

L. Pfeiffer asked HOST members to think, for a discussion at a future meeting, about;

1) what is the philosophy for Open Space, and

Harding Open Space Trust Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021

2) who is suppose to enjoy the open space.

J. Somers commented that the Township used State funding to preserve open space, people should enjoy it. A lively discussion ensued. A recommendation was made to have a planner attend a HOST meeting to address our Open Space assests and what can be done when neighbors do not want people to enjoy the open space. T. Jones will speak with B. Spinelli of Greener By Design to see if he could speak at a future HOST meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Riley, and with a vote of all ayes, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee