

HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023
21 BLUE MILL ROAD, NEW VERNON, NJ 07976

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OPEN MEETING:

Mr. Pfeiffer opened the meeting at 7:35 pm by announcing adequate notice of this October 11, 2023, HOST meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

HOST Attendance: Mrs. Chipperson, Ms. Devine, Mr. Jones, Mr. Gandy, Mr. Novotny, Mr. Pfeiffer, Ms. Somers, and Mr. Wepler

Excused Absence: Mr. DeNave and Mr. Rosato

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Public Attendance: None

ACCEPTANCE OF THE HOST MINUTES FOR: JULY 12, 2023:

July 12, 2023 Minutes:

L. Pfeiffer asked if there were any comments regarding the July 12, 2023 HOST minutes. A motion to accept the July 12, 2023 minutes was made by L. Wepler, seconded by K. Gandy, and with a vote of all eyes, none opposed, the minutes for July 12, 2023, were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

Appleton

T. Jones reported that at the Township Committee meeting, the Township Attorney reported that the LOI on the property will be expiring and asked if the Township Committee would be interested in renewing for another five-year extension. T. Jones explained that the property is open space and the Township Committee declined the renewal.

Properties to be Included on the Rosi

L. Sharp reported that a memorandum from HOST was sent to Mr. Falzarano, Township Administrator listing HOST's recommendation which were included in the minutes from July 12, 2023 and listed below:

The HOST Committee reviewed the current ROSI and recommended the following properties be added:

- Glen Alpin should be amended to 100% owned by HT
- Gatehouse should be removed as it is owned by the HLT
- 163 Lee's Hill Road

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- Appleton 1 – 538 Van Buren Road
- Appleton 2 – 528 Van Buren Road
- Culbertson – 140 Blue Mill Road – this was a diversion property
- DOT – Parcel B, Route 287, Section 8 – this was a diversion property
- Dear 1 – 174 Blue Mill Road
- Dear 2 – 174 Blue Mill Road

L. Sharp reported that Mr. Falzarano has sent HOST’s recommendation to the Township Attorney.

Management Plan Objectives Update – T. Bologna

T. Bologna provided a brief background and mentioned she was the former Director for the Harding Land Trust from 2007 to 2014 and provided some consulting for them. T. Bologna provided an update on three properties for Management Strategies and a copy is attached to these minutes. Discussion points are below:

Appleton 1 - healthy stream bank, keep an eye on soil erosion, old stone foundation and well, some standing dead trees, maintain warm season grass meadow but no cutting until 7/15/23 due to ground nesting, little brush cutting in front of road, add boundary markers, manage public access to the property. T. Bologna will look into NRCS WHIP and conservation programs. T. Jones commented that DPW may be able to conduct the brush cutting in front of the road.

Appleton 2 – Similar to Appleton 1, warm season grasses, bridle path, steep area, larger trees, can walk the property, public access. It was recommended that both Appleton properties be combined as one.

Culbertson – Mow on a 2 to 3 year rotation, currently is mowed 2 times a year, remove baiter, Indiana bat, has some invasive species, add boundary markers to deter encroaching, ensure bridle trail connections to adjacent properties are intact, public access.

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

There were no hearing persons present.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments, L. Pfeiffer asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion made by T. Jones, seconded by L. Wepler, with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee