

# Open Space Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** June 8, 2021 (meeting via video & phone due to Covid-19)

*Present:* Adair, Dey, Hess, Knell, Maines, Mayer, Jamanow, Rich, Zipin; *Absent:* Perry

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Ms. Dey at 7:04.
2. **Consideration of Minutes.** The minutes from May 11, 2021 were approved.
3. **Status Update: “The Hill” at Garwood and Westfield (possible litigation):** Mr. Aberant is reviewing the agreement for the Township’s interest; price has been agreed upon; we have Green Acres funding from the state.
4. **Status Update: Trucksess:** Applications due by July 15<sup>th</sup> for next round of Green Acres funding; discussions with county about looking for other/additional sources of funding.
5. **Status Update: Priority List Review:** Discussed if we had any more info about the parcels we had discussed at the last meeting, including: 43 Riverton Road; a 6.17 acre detention basin at 144 Pheasant Fields Lane, 70 Pheasant Fields Lane. Is it under a different classification than other parcels of open space? What do we want to do with the lots? Is there public access? Have they been farmed recently? Our committee’s responsibility to watch out for this land. In the past, developers have “gifting” parcels of land – like detention basins – to the Township and the Township no longer wants responsibility for them.
6. **Status Update: Swedes Run Fields – plantings and maintenance:** Nothing will be planted until the fall; the Township will be mowing the property this summer. [STEM has offered to contribute \$7,000 for planting of a meadow; including native grasses that grow about 3 feet tall; working with the State.]
7. **Status Update: Signage Order:** Discussion: committee might want to drive to the Kay Smith Water Works Woods space (and park on Haines Dr. or Westbrook) to help decide where the sign should be located; should the sign duplicate what other Open Space signs in Township say; height of sign. What about a crosswalk from Strawbridge Lake? – it’s a county road so we’d have to ask them; there’s a constant stream of pedestrians walking to Water Works Woods. Do we need to add a larger map to the kiosk? Who holds the key to that kiosk? Is it the Dept. Public Works?
8. **New Business: Preparing a comprehensive Open Space List:** Question about naming of spaces. There is a new area at Strawbridge Lake with benches and it’s dedicated to a child as a memorial – do we have any Township regulations about how spaces are named? Do we want to come up with a plan/rules as to how spaces are named?
9. **New Business: Re-printing of Take-A-Hike brochures:** Nancy will get quotes and order copies.
10. **New Business: Vacancy on Open Space Committee:** The Township has received several applications from people interested in serving on the Committee.
11. **New Business: Parcel on Westfield Road:** Property owners have land they want to donate at 751 Westfield Road; north of dog park; adjacent to township owned property across from Stanwyck Glen Road; lot 35, block 7100; there is a house on it (house would not be part of this); 5.5 acres of farmlands assessment; backs up to Winner Fields off of Westfield. Looks like it could connect parcels; Nancy will find out more info.
12. **New Business: Master plan:** Contract was awarded to Clarke Caton and Hintz for their work on the Master Plan.
13. **Public Comment:** none
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 by Ms. Dey. The next scheduled meeting is July 13, 2021.