

Minutes of the Open Space Committee

March 3, 2008

Mayor Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Mayor Weinstein, Councilmember Trawinski (arrived 7:11 pm), Manager Metzler, Crystal Robbins, Maureen Moriarty, Sharon Rendfrey, Peter Weissberg, Ted King, Joan Goldstein, Heather Blecher, Michael Hakim, Wendy Dabney.

Absent: Benny Salerno, Peter Kortright, Ira Frankel and Jack Susser

Minutes and Attendance:

Mayor Weinstein stated that the Planning Board decided to hold a meeting to discuss the 208 Corridor study tonight beginning at 7:30 pm. It is appropriate for members of the Open Space committee to sit in and listen to their meeting.

Status of Grant Applications:

The County Freeholders have authorized \$300,000.00 towards the Dobrow complex turf field and approved the Borough's \$19,500.00 request for the Naugle/Vander Beck house. The public hearing on this will take place on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Learning Center, room 416, at One Bergen County Plaza.

Status of Potential Properties for Purchase:

George Street –

Michael Hakim explained the letter that he drafted regarding comments from Lisa Stern, who is our contact at Green Acres. On the firehouse project a Project Reference Map had to be submitted. The grass field with the water pump station was labeled on the map as parkland. It is not labeled as parkland on the Borough's tax map. Lisa Stern asked that if it is parkland, why is it not on the Recreation and Open Space Inventory. The letter states that this portion of land has never been dedicated as park, but that is the intention of the borough to use it as such. Once it is on the Open Space inventory, it is on it permanently.

This item will be discussed at the next work session.

Manager Metzler stated that the purchase order has been cut for the second appraiser on the George Street property in accordance with Open Space regulations.

A member asked if they will ever know the cost of the appraisal. Manager Metzler stated that the attorney is negotiating with Company #1. It will become public information eventually.

A question was raised as to why the two appraisals were not done at the same time. Manager Metzler stated that the initial appraisal was done to get a ball park price. The delay in the second appraisal is because of the paperwork that is required for Pay to Play.

The Tax Assessor's office values the property at \$300,000.00, which is the estimated market value for the parking lot area. Open Space committee members asked if this is accurate.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that this is probably worth about \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00. This seems in line with other residential properties in town.

Lackland Self Storage –

A purchase order has been cut for the Lackland property on Wagaraw Road, that the Borough is acquiring for \$1.00 on Wagaraw Road.

New Business:

Wendy Dabney brought felt there should be more information about the committee, members and links to the minutes on the Open Space page on the website. Also the dates of meetings should be on the Borough Calendar. There has also been discussion about the Special Improvement Districts (River Road and Broadway) which she felt should not be under the “Government-Boards and Commissions” section of the Borough website.

Maureen Moriarty contacted the EPA regarding the Kodak, Sandvick and Fisher Scientific sites. They are doing a remedial investigation plan which won't be completed until the end of March. Vapor intrusion is a concern. These chemicals are the same as those found in Radburn. The technician would come to a public meeting, but wanted to wait until the remedial investigation is completed.

Next Meeting Date:

Mayor Weinstein stated that the meeting that is scheduled for March 24, 2008 at 7:30 pm in room 201.

Public Comments:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.