

Raritan Township Open Space Advisory Committee Agenda.

Wednesday October 10, 2018 5:30 PM Raritan Township Municipal Bldg. One Municipal Drive

Members: Tony Hajjar Township Engineer, Chair - Amy Greene, Joel Throne, Timothy McCarthy, Ryan Edge, James Miller, Steve Farsiou, Committeewoman and Deputy Mayor Karen Gilbert, Committeeman Craig O'Brien

Public Comment:

Open Session Agenda:

1. Open Space Plan – Jessica Caldwell, our planner, is compiling the draft plan and public comments and the plan will be submitted to the Raritan Township Planning Board for review and adoption as the Open Space Element of the Township Master Plan. The adopted plan will then be submitted to NJDEP Green Acres. The plan is a requirement for continued Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant funding for Land Acquisition. The plan will be reviewed by the Planning Board after NJDEP Green Acres makes a decision to correct the ROSI by removal of an 8.9 acre portion of the 20 acre Dayton Road property Block 63.14 Lot 23 from the ROSI. This will be submitted to NJDEP Green Acres. The remainder of the property is under conservation easement and therefore will remain in the ROSI. The ROSI update is required for Green Acres funding. http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/pdf/osrpg_2017.pdf.
2. Farmland Preservation Plan – The plan is nearing finalization by representatives from the Open Space Committee and the Agricultural Committee and will be provided to the Planning Board to be adopted as the Agricultural Preservation Element of the Master Plan. The Target Farms map will be revised in GIS by the Township's Sr. Engineering Aid Tom Tully.
3. Walnut Brook Preserve, Levico Tract - Amy Greene contacted the Raritan Headwaters regarding applying for another Nature Conservancy grant for more tree plantings. The grant program has changed and non-profit and municipal grants are now separate categories but they are willing to assist us in applying.
4. Toll Brothers is paying for planting of 100 trees at Walnut Brook Preserve. Amy Greene and Ryan Edge will prepare a plan to provide to Tony Hajjar for submission to Toll Brothers. Schedule field visit. Planting locations may include Walnut Brook Preserve Levico Tract, Mine Brook Park and/or Urbach Farm.
5. Hunterdon County is having a public hearing on their Strategic Park and Open Space Plan on October 18th at 7PM in the Assembly Room in Building #1 of the Route 12 County Complex, Flemington, NJ. The draft plan is found at <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/openspace/StrategicPlan.htm> comments may be submitted online as well.
6. The Open Space map was displayed and copies were handed out at Raritan Township Community Day on September 29. Information about Farmland Preservation from SADC was also distributed.
7. Resolution to close the public portion of the meeting to go into closed session to review property acquisitions.

Next meeting 5:30 PM second Wednesday of the month: November 14, December 12, 2018