

Raritan Township Open Space Advisory Committee Agenda.

Wednesday May 9, 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 Farslou, Committeewoman and Deputy Mayor Karen Gilbert, Committeeman Craig O'Brien

Open Session Agenda:

1. Hunterdon County Park Strategic Open Space and Recreation Plan, Guest William Millette Planner with Hunterdon County to discuss the draft plan and solicit input. Possible items for discussion –
 - a. County parking, pavilion, trail development at County Ewing Farm (Hilltop);
 - b. proposed active recreation facility at County Clover Hill Park;
 - c. acquisition of open space including Campbell property to extend Walnut Brook Greenway;
 - d. acquisition of Heron View property adjacent to the County Golf Course;
 - e. Forest stewardship at Uplands to encourage understory growth;
 - f. Increase County funding for municipalities and non-profits to acquire open space lands and farmland.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Tony Hajjar and Amy Greene updated the Green Acres Recreation and Open Space Inventory. This will be submitted to NJDEP Green Acres. Waiting for final review by Township Attorney. This is required for Green Acres funding. http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/pdf/osrpg_2017.pdf.
5. Walnut Brook Preserve, Levico Tract - Tree planting was a big success. Check out the blue forest when you drive up Thatchers Hill Rd and envision a rejuvenated forest. Thanks to Raritan Headwaters Association, a grant from The Nature Conservancy and many volunteers from the township and beyond we planted 125 trees on Friday April 27 and Saturday April 28. Volunteers represented Environmental Commission, Open Space Committee, Flemington-Raritan Parks and Rec, Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Morales Park Volunteer, and neighbors. Raritan Headwaters would like to apply for additional trees at the preserve in the fall.
6. 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 and/or Urbach Farm.
7. Ryan Edge – report on status of Recreation Field development planning at Hunterdon County Clover Hill Park.
8. 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: June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12, 2018