

**Raritan Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday May 10, 2017 5:30 PM Raritan Twp
Municipal Bldg**

Members Present: Committeeman Richard Chen, Tony Hajjar Township Engineer, Chair Amy Greene, Joel Throne, Timothy McCarthy, Ryan Edge, James Miller (Planning Board liaison), Steve Farslou,

Members Excused:

Members Absent: Committeeman Craig O'Brien (absent)
Public Comment – Limited to 3 minutes.

Barbara Sachou provided public comment about her concern about the use of open space lands for killing wildlife.

1. The 2017 Open Space Plan prepared by the Open Space Advisory Committee was submitted to the Township Committee for review. Amy Greene reported that she presented a synopsis of the plan at the May 2 meeting. A copy was also submitted to Jeff Kuhl Chair of the Planning Board.
2. NJDEP Green Acres was provided a copy of the existing Open Space and Conservation Plan that is contained within the Raritan Township Master Plan. The Master Plan is due to be updated in 2018. The Plan prepared by the Open Space Committee can be used to update that section of the Master Plan. The updated plan should be provided to Green Acres upon adoption in order to remain eligible for Green Acres funding
3. Proposal to establish parking areas on township open space – Richard Chen presented a proposal to install uniformly designed parking areas at the Township open space lands. He proposes to use funds from the Wildlife Management Committee for the first two and Open Space funds for the remaining. The plan includes a parking area to be constructed with millings, a kiosk and parking stops. The parking areas would be installed by the township DPW staff. There was concern from the members of the committee about using limited open space funds for this purpose. Members suggested that the township allow for sponsorship of the kiosks annually by local businesses to pay for the kiosks. The sponsorships could be renewed each year for a fee and a small plaque installed on the kiosks with the sponsors name. Ryan Edge has experience with this in Wayne Township where he works and will obtain more information about that.
4. A Resolution was passed to close the public portion of the meeting to go into private session to review property acquisition.

Next meetings 5:30 PM:, June 14, July 12, Aug 9, Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13, 2017