

Raritan Township Open Space Advisory Committee Agenda.
Wednesday January 9, 2019 5:30 PM Raritan Township Municipal Bldg. One Municipal Drive

Members: Tony Hajjar Township Engineer, Chair - Amy Greene, Joel Throne, Timothy McCarthy, James Miller, Harry Quinn, Committeewoman Karen Gilbert, and Mayor Jeff Kuhl

Public Comment:

Open Session Agenda:

1. Welcome new members - update contact information
2. Election of Chairperson

3. Township 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 by the township to correct the ROSI by removal of the Dayton Road property Block 63.14 Lot 23 from the ROSI.
4. Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) – The updated ROSI was submitted to NJDEP Green Acres 12/3/18. The ROSI update is required for Green Acres funding. There was a public hearing on July 9, 2018 and a subsequent Township Committee meeting held to solicit public comment regarding a requested amendment to the ROSI to make a correction regarding on Dayton Road. The entire 20-acre lot was included in the 2011 version of the ROSI submitted to Green Acres. The Township is clarifying that a 8.9 acre portion of the lot is to be used for affordable housing and that only the remaining portion, that is under conservation easement, should instead be on the ROSI instead of the entire parcel. Waiting for feedback from Green Acres. http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/pdf/osrpg_2017.pdf.
5. 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.

6. Walnut Brook Preserve, Levico Tract - Tree planting was performed in 2018 with a grant from The Nature Conservancy. The 2019 grant program is being managed by the watershed institute (formerly Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association). The tributary stream along which we wanted to plant more trees does not meet the current criteria due to a glitch in GIS mapping. Amy Greene contacted TNC and they may modify the criteria for 2020.
7. Toll Brothers is paying for planting of 100 trees at Walnut Brook Preserve. Amy Greene Mike Rasile will prepare a plan to plant 90 trees at Micek Farm Park on Johanna Farm Road and 10 native trees at Mine Brook Park. Will provide plan to provide to Tony Hajjar for submission to Toll Brothers.
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: February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11, 2019