

Raritan Township Open Space Advisory Committee Agenda.

Wednesday February 13, 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, Jesse Allen, Committeewoman Karen Gilbert, and Mayor Jeff Kuhl

Public Comment:

Open Session Agenda:

1. Election of Vice Chairperson
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Walnut Brook Preserve, Levico Tract - Tree planting was performed in 2018 with a grant from The Nature Conservancy and assistance from the Raritan Headwaters Association. The Wildlife Management Committee is proposing to fence in a 2-3 acre portion of the planted area to exclude deer herbivory, facilitate planted tree growth and facilitate establishment of seedlings to create an understory and new trees. RHA also is willing to help us with checking the 2018 plantings and performing new plantings in a larger area with the assistance of volunteers. We would also likely plant sycamores which are fast growing and were not available last year from Pinelands Nursery. A Flemington Boy Scout troop is interested in helping and we can seek other volunteers as we did in 2018. Seedlings costs are small however planting potted nursery trees would cost \$500-1,000 and expedite reforestation. or so that could be raised by donations.
6. Toll Brothers is paying for planting of over 200 trees or equivalent smaller trees at Micek Farm Park and Mine Brook Park. Preserve. Amy Greene, after consulting with John Morgan Thomas, prepared a plan to plant 190 trees and shrubs at Micek Farm Park on Johanna Farm Road and 32 native trees and shrubs at Mine Brook Park. Provided plan and specifications to Tony Hajjar and John Morgan Thomas for submission to Toll Brothers.
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: Amy Greene won't be able to make the March 13 meeting. Can we change is to March 20?, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11, 2019