

Raritan Township Open Space Advisory Committee Agenda.
Wednesday March 20, 2019 5:30 PM Raritan Township Municipal Bldg. One Municipal Drive

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

Public Comment:

Open Session Agenda:

1. Township Open Space Plan Review – Jessica Caldwell, our planner, compiled the draft plan, including the previously solicited public comments. Discussion on plan contents. Comments will be compiled by Amy Greene and provided to Jessica to finalize the plan. The Raritan Township Planning Board will then review and adopt 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.
2. 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.
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.
4. 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 has proposed to fence in a 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. This was considered by the Township Committee but has deferred funding this area in favor of fencing a 1 acre mature forest at Morales Park. 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 or more and expedite reforestation. or so that could be raised by donations. At Jesse Allen’s suggestion I sent the Kohl’s donation/volunteer program info to RHA. The program is for non-profit organizations. My firms if also donating \$500. Any other donors?
5. 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. Tony?
6. 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: April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11, 2019

This Committee is not subject to OPMA in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8.