

**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2012**

FLAG SALUTE : Chairman Glenn Schweizer led the Flag Salute at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL: Margaret Couse, Alan Martin, Chairman Glenn Schweizer, Vice-Chairman Alan Martin, John Major, Arne Goytil. Member Excused: Mayor Philip Yetter. Also Present: Township Administrator E. Klose, Vice President of Programs of the Land Conservancy; Barbara Davis and Intern Darby McCaulay.

STATEMENT- Chairman Glenn Schweizer stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the provisions of P. L. 1975, Ch. 231, Secs. 4 & 13 the Sunshine Law. Adequate notice of the meeting was published in the New Jersey Herald being the Sunday and Daily editions as to time, place, and date, and is posted in the usual location of posted notices in the municipal building.

MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Margaret Couse and seconded by Alan Martin, with all members in favor, to approve the Minutes of April 2, 2012 with a correction noted that Alan Martin is the Vice-Chairman not John Major.

DISCUSSION

THE LAND CONSERVANCY, INC. AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Chairman G. Schweizer stated that Barbara Davis has been working on the Open Space Plan and that she prepared an outline to help with the discussion at the meeting. A map was also prepared for review.

B. Davis introduced herself to the Open Space Members as a fourteen year employee of the Land Conservancy and is the Vice President of Programs. B. Davis stated that Hampton Township was one of the first open space and recreation plans that she drafted in 2000. She stated she would be going over why the township wants to update the plan and also review the map and the Greenway that has been developed over the past ten years.

She explained that an open space plan is only supposed to last five to six years, noting that the current plan is over ten years old. The update has some intricate components. The original plan has more detail because it provides the basis for the document.

The first section of plan followed the Green Acres design because at that time the township wasn't sure whether or not it wanted to apply for the Green Acres funding. The Conservancy added some new sections because the concept is to use plans that include a chapter on community resources and include a section detailing the Open Space Program's Trust Fund.

The Plan references how it relates to the Municipal Master Plan. Two key components that the Land Conservancy believes should be updated are the goals section where it talks about why the township wants to preserve the land, and the action program. B. Davis stated in the 2000 plan the goals were specifically prioritized in number order. The Land Conservancy typically just bullets them. The committee felt very strongly that they wanted to prioritize what the goals for preservation were.

The first step for this process would be to revisit the goals; did they work, did they not work, etc. B. Davis stated that she spoke with Sandy Urgo at the Land Conservancy because she's been working with Hampton Township for so long to try and get some ideas from her about current goals. B. Davis stated that this is a good first step, and although the Committee may not have the answers right now, as they all go through the process everyone will come to a conclusion of what the goals are.

The action program is supposed to be what the Committee and the Township follow on a step-by-step basis. For example, in the short term or in one year, this is what the Committee will do. In the midterm or three years, this is what will be done, etc. B. Davis stated that after reviewing the original action program, she found that the Committee has accomplished their goals over the past twelve years.

The next section to be updated would be the inventory section, which is what the map relates to. It would show how the land is used in the municipality. Something that wasn't done in 2000, but the Land Conservancy feels they should consider doing is a Greenway Map. A Greenway Map gives an idea of the land that has been protected, why it's been protected, and what you want to consider protecting. Every town does this differently; it's just what works best for each municipality. The greenway map is not a regulatory map, it's not zoning map, it doesn't imply anything, it doesn't mean you're going to acquire those lands; it just gives a reason for why you're interested in preserving those lands.

The plan update will have a few sections. It will have a goals section, which will describe the original goals and whether they need to be updated, and what the updates should be. It will have a planning consistency section because since 2000, Sussex County has developed a Farmland Plan, an Open Space Plan, and a Strategic Growth Plan. None of these plans were referenced in the original Hampton Township Open Space Plan because they didn't exist at the time. The proposed State Plan also didn't exist in 2000 but it is now on track for final adoption.

Another section that is very important, which Township Administrator E. Klose has been helping the Land Conservancy with, is a history of the Open Space Program. It is a powerful statement of how much money the township has collected since 2000 and how it has leveraged those funds with outside sources to preserve land within the township.

The Land Conservancy has been working on the plan for a couple months to get the map updated. They would like to have an open space tour of the town. It has been some time since B. Davis has driven through the municipality so she needs to take a second look at it. She recommended that the Open Space Committee participate in this tour as well. It will also help her to verify that the map is accurate.

The next step would be the public process. There should be a public component to it and it's recommended that this be held at two advertised public meetings. The 2000 Plan was adopted at the same time as the Township Master Plan, which means the Planning Board has copies of it, and it is a living document.

B. Davis reviewed the Open Space Map with the Committee. She stated that anything on the map in green means that it is permanently protected. Hampton Township does not have any municipally preserved land. The township does have the park but it's not permanently protected as publically owned land.

B. Davis stated that she created a first draft of a map of mixed colors to identify farmland, farmland assessed, publically owned, educational/charitable, and vacant lands.

She asked if it's true that the approach toward recreation has changed, because it seems that the Committee had focused their interest in supporting the greenway concept but now the focus appears to be on finding property for recreational purposes.

Township Administrator E. Klose responded that over the years Sandy Urgo has always looked for additional recreational field space. Recreation has always been discussed as a priority. The Township needs a property that is flat and is easily accessible for this purpose.

B. Davis read the goals statement to the committee members that had been written in 2000. "The following are the goals & objectives of the Open Space Program of Hampton Township as developed by the Township Open Space Committee. Prioritized are preserved existing farmland, conserve the natural features and protect the environmentally sensitive lands within the township, preserve and enhance historic architectural cultural resources in the community and expand the recreational opportunities available to the residents of the community."

She stated that when she spoke with Sandy Urgo, she felt that based on her experience with the Open Space Committee the priorities would be additional field space, continuing to pursue the expansion of State holdings in the township, and farmland preservation. It isn't much different from what the Open Space Committee had as their goals in 2000; it's just in a different order of priority.

Arne Goytil stated that when the Committee first started to prioritize goals they discussed the potential for a housing development on Pond Ridge Road and talked about the limestone formations and the concern about larger developments in these areas. The township's main focus was to preserve as much of this sensitive area as possible so there wouldn't be future problems. The next goal was to develop a greenway, in order to create the linkages between the greenway and the parks and then focus on farmland preservation and recreational opportunities.

He stated there is still a lot of farmland in Hampton Township and that we have to preserve as much of it as we can from those who are willing to sell. He feels the emphasis from the Committee has been good, and that they just need to keep it going. He's concerned about the two acre zone and believes that more needs to be done in this area.

B. Davis stated that maps could be created to reflect the various things Mr. Goytil discussed.

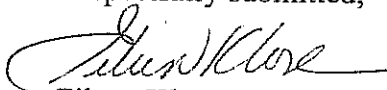
B. Davis stated she would like to set a date for a township tour if anyone is interested in participating.

Township Administrator E. Klose stated that she would coordinate the date, and time of the tour with everyone who is interested in attending and get back to B. Davis with the details.

B. Davis stated her opinion that it was a great kick off meeting and thanked the members for their time.

A **MOTION** was made by Alan Martin and seconded by John Major, with all members in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Eileen Klose
Township Administrator
Open Space Secretary