

## **White Township Open Space Committee Minutes of the January 24, 2012 Meeting**

Call to Order by Acting Chairwoman Ellen Johnson at 6:35pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

- A) Followed by the Opening Statement, Pursuant to the NJ Open Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 ET SEQ., the Board Secretary caused notice of the meeting to be given to the public and press on February 16, 2011.
- B) Roll call was taken by Acting Secretary, Nancy Bilyk. Present were Acting Chairwoman Ellen Johnson, as well as the following members of the Committee: Bob Mackey, Dave Newhouse, Nevitt Duveneck, Valerie Tishuk, and Nancy Bilyk. Arriving at 6:48 pm was Jason Menegus. During the meeting there were three members of the public present.
- C) The first order of business was the reorganization of the White Township Open Space Committee for the year 2012. Acting Chairwoman Ellen Johnson opened the nominations.
  - 1) Dave Newhouse suggested that the offices for the committee be rotated, giving all member of the committee a chance to serve as officers. It was agreed by all members. Anyone wishing to be Chairperson or Vice Chairperson could have a chance to serve. Most members have already held offices.
  - 2) Nominations for Vice Chairperson were opened. Valerie Tishuk nominated Jason Menegus for Chairman, seconded by Ellen Johnson. There were no other nominations for Chairperson, therefore no vote was required. Jason Menegus was appointed the Chairman of the White Township Open Space Committee for 2012.
  - 3) Nominations for Vice Chairperson were opened. Nevitt Duveneck nominated Nancy Bilyk for Vice Chairwoman, seconded by Valerie Tishuk. There were no other nominations for Vice Chairperson, therefore no vote was required. Nancy Bilyk was appointed Vice Chairwoman of the White Township Open Space Committee for 2012.
  - 4) The meeting dates for the 2012 calendar year are as follows: 2/28/12, 3/27/12, 4/24/12, 5/22/12, 6/26/12, 7/24/12, 8/28/12, 9/25/12, 10/23/12, 11/27/12. After discussion, Dave Newhouse motioned that there is no need for a December meeting as there is not a lot going on at that time of year. Seconded by Nevitt Duveneck, it was voted not to have a meeting in December. All were in favor.
  - 5) Motioned by Ellen Johnson, seconded by Valeries Tishuk, to accept the 2012 meeting schedule was voted on. All were in favor.
- E) A motion was made by Ellen Johnson, seconded by Bob Macky, to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2011 meeting. The minutes were voted on and passed with one correction in section B for a wording change. Instead of Open Space Meeting, it should read, Open Public Meeting Act. A vote was taken and carried with one abstention from Valerie Tishuk, who was not present at the November meeting.

- F) Under New Business, the selecting of a new Board Secretary was brought up. There is one applicant. Her name is Tara L. Andrews. Nevitt Duveneck stated that there should be a subcommittee for interviewing the candidate. Chairman Menegus called for volunteers for the subcommittee. Ellen Johnson, Nancy Bilyk, and Dave Newhouse volunteered to do the interview as soon as possible. Township Committee member, Sam Race, stated as a member of the public that he would like to sit in on the interview. The members of the Open Space Committee had no objections.
- 1) There was discussion about the salary of the new Secretary. It was motioned by Valerie Tishuk that the yearly compensation for the position would be \$1000.00, which would include meetings, correspondence, minutes and other miscellaneous duties. A Roll Call vote was taken: Chairman Menegus, yes; Ellen Johnson, yes; Nevitt Duveneck, yes; Nancy Bilyk, yes; Valerie Tishuk, yes; Bob Mackey, no; Dave Newhouse, no. Chairman Menegus stated the motion was carried and it would be taken to the next Township Committee meeting on February 2, 2012 at 7:00pm to be presented.
- G) A member of the public, Mr. John Walburn, of Block 13, Lot 22 on Buckhorn Road, wanted to discuss his options on preserving his 30 acre farm. He wanted to know what he had to do to get started. Chairman Menegus gave him an application and told him to begin with that and then the NJ Land Conservancy would be contacted to speak with him further. He is on a targeted farm.
- H) Nevitt Duveneck gave an update on the PIG grant. He said the county stated there was only one farm on the targeted list that is already preserved. No other comments have come back.
- 1) Chairman Menegus reported that the Erhardt farm is moving on with their preservation application.
- I) There was discussion of the NJ Land Conservancy continuing to help the township by providing consultations with land owners. It was motioned by Valerie Tishuk and seconded by Ellen Johnson to have the township and NJ Land Conservancy continue the agreement as set forth prior to this year. This will also be brought to the township committee meeting on February 2, 2012, by Chairman Menegus, for approval.
- J) Chairman Menegus said that the DeBoar, Quick and Bullock farms were all considering preservation. Chairman Menegus will be giving them preservation applications from the PIG grant to be filled out.
- K) It was discussed that our committee could indeed make recommendations to the NJ Land Conservancy as to who would be well qualified to do appraisals for area farms.
- L) Correspondence - There were two letters from the state Executive Director, Susan E. Payne.
- 1) The state is preparing a draft of an AG management practice for on-farm direct marketing, activities, and events. They would like comments and feedback.

2) The state is creating a new project to help support beginning farms.  
For this, they are also looking for comments and feedback.

M) With no further business to be discussed at this time, a motion was made by Valerie Tishuk, seconded by Ellen Johnson, to close the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tara Andrews  
Secretary