



**Township of Pequannock  
Open Space Advisory Committee**  
October 10, 2016, 7:00 PM  
Municipal Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike  
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wells at 7:03 pm.

**Voting Members Present (X):**

X	Joseph Wells (Chairman)	X	Frank Spizzirri (Vice-Chair)	X	Robin Jones (Secretary)
X	Thomas Andrea	X	Michael Carlon	X	Ryan Herd
X	Mayor David Kohle		Jeffrey Mauriello	X	Robert Safarik
	VACANT				

**Others Present (X):**

X	Frank Pinto, Spinelli & Pinto Consulting, LLC	X	Julie Unger, Resident
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A quorum was established.

**Mission Statement**

To provide advice to the Township Council concerning open space acquisition and property stewardship issues.

Minutes Review & Approval

On motion of member Spizzirri seconded by Safarik, the Open Session minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously with member Wells and Carlon abstaining, as they were not present.

On motion of member Spizzirri seconded by Safarik, the Executive Session minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously with members Wells and Carlon abstaining, as they were not present.

Township Council Report:

Mayor Kohle reported that the Martin Berry house project is proceeding. Historic Commission is doing a fundraiser and the estate is planning a sale of the house's contents.

Planning Board Report:

Mr. Herd reported that the planning board approved an addition to the Library for the purpose of expanding the children's program area and that this work received a donation. Groundbreaking is anticipated very soon to allow winter interior work.

Environmental Commission Report:

Mr. Andrea reported the commission will be meeting on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting they will be speaking with a new watershed ambassador.

Historic Committee Report:

Mr. Safarik reported that the Martin Berry house closing is being delayed slightly by the landowner who is moving into Cedar Crest. A late October/early November closing is now anticipated. The landowner is having a company do an estate sale of items she does not wish to keep. The Historic Commission is doing a fundraiser in the hopes that items of historic significance can be purchased and kept in the house upon township ownership. This past weekend there was a county-wide event called Pathways that highlighted historic sites throughout the county. Many individuals visited Pequannock during the tour.

#### Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report:

Mr. Andrea reported that Kati Frye is no longer with the parks department but is now working for Glen Rock. Barbara now reports to Pete Correale, the health officer. There will be an ad hoc committee formed tomorrow by the Township Committee to look at the old Boys and Girls Club building to see if it is feasible for the Club and the Township to share the use of that space.

#### Correspondence:

There was mention of correspondence from Green Acres who will be out to inspect some open space properties in the township. This is a routine inspection that Green Acres conducts periodically.

#### Updates on Pending Items:

Riverwalk Trail Grant – Chairman Wells reported that the purchase of benches, tables and kiosks will occur soon. Mr. Wells sought the input and consent of the members to purchase metal benches and tables. The reasons for this material choice is due to vandalism of wooden and plastic as the location for these items will be in remote locations. Additionally, the metal benches and tables will require the least maintenance and will stand the best chance of avoiding damage during a flood. After discussion the members of the committee were in agreement to pursue the purchase of metal benches and tables.

Chairman Wells reported that Dave Hollberg gave permission to do trail clearing/cleanup work. Mr. Wells asked for volunteers to assist on Sunday morning. They will meet at 9 AM. As to trail maintenance, right now there is one guaranteed Eagle Scout project lined up to assist with the Riverwalk project. Mr. Wells is hoping to secure two more Eagle Scout projects that can do construction of kiosks and trail improvements. At this point Ms. Unger indicated her interest in creating an additional community garden plot along the Riverwalk area. It would enable more residents to have garden plots and also provide a means for her to provide environmental education to the residents including proper gardening methods and soil health. Mr. Pinto indicated that he serves on the board of Grow It Green Morristown and that that non-profit organization has a gardening/farming education program that could help in Ms. Unger's efforts. The board took the suggestions and will keep them in mind as the Riverwalk project develops.

Bridge at Aquatic Park - Mr. Wells reported that there was a meeting held with representatives of Morris County and Passaic County. The concept is to construct a pedestrian bridge, utilizing existing bridge abutments to allow a crossing of the river. This will enable a loop trail system between the counties that will also tie into the long-awaited NYS&W rail trail project. Mr. Wells indicated that this could be a very costly project with the feasibility study being paid by the local governments, and then turning the project over to the Counties to seek grant funding for its construction. Mr. Wells will keep the group informed of the progress on this.

#### Spinelli and Pinto Consulting Report:

Mr. Pinto indicated that his report could be given in open session and was done accordingly.

Mr. Pinto reported that he and Ben met with Joe Wells and Frank Spizzirri to learn the history of the efforts to acquire easements from landowners along the Riverwalk. Mr. Pinto also spoke with Dave Hollberg who will try and provide the contact info for landowners where the easements are targeted.

At this point, Ms. Julie Unger left the meeting room.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On motion of member Spizzirri seconded by Herd, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following one matter:

**1. Manno Property**

The open session reconvened at 8:18 PM.

**Adjournment:**

On motion of member Andrea with all in agreement, the meeting concluded at 8:20 PM.

**Next meeting is Scheduled for:  
Monday, November 14, 2016; 7:00 pm  
530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike  
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Frank*

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Frank Pinto, Committee Facilitator