



**Township of Pequannock
Open Space Advisory Committee**

March 12, 2018, 7:00 PM
Municipal Building, 2nd Floor
530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wells at 7:00 pm.

Voting Members Present (X):

X	Joseph Wells (Chairman)	X	Frank Spizzirri (Vice-Chair)	X	Robin Jones (Secretary)
X	Kerry Heck		Hon. Ryan Herd	X	Jeffrey Mauriello
	Robert Safarik	X	Rudy Steinthal	X	Julie Unger

Others Present (X):

X	Frank Pinto, Spinelli & Pinto Consulting, LLC (via phone conference)
X	Adam Iaccheo, AmeriCorp Volunteer

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 Steinthal seconded by Spizzirri the Open Session minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Township Council Report:

Councilman Herd is in a Council meeting and unable to attend. Mr. Wells reported that the main item discussed during the meeting was the skateboard park proposal, its costs and a plan for trying to move it forward. The cost of \$382,000 is significantly higher than originally estimated and also does not include fencing and lighting. The Council did not support the proposal.

Planning Board Report:

Did not meet. No report given.

Environmental Commission Report:

Nothing new to report.

Historic District Commission Report:

Robert is not present. No report was given.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report:

Rudy reported that the swim lane lines are partially funded by the Township with private funds being raised by the Swim Club to help defray the cost. The total cost is \$22,000. The swim lane installation is

waiting for good weather to be replaced. They are looking to put in backstops at various ballfields. Fields 2 & 3 are being worked on right now. Field 3 still requires fencing and field 2 will be renovated this year both fields will be all purpose ball fields.

Correspondence:

No Correspondence.

Pending Items Update

1. Pompton Riverwalk (Joe Wells & Frank Pinto)

- Anello & Aqua Properties: Mr. Pinto reported that 6' Chain link fence is desired by both landowners. Robin brought up that the fencing may be an issue in floodplain/floodway. There may be a need to have a breakaway fencing section so the fencing does not impeded water flow during times of flooding.

- NJDWSC – Bauer & Covello Easement Updates. No updates. Ron Farr at the District has been contacted recently.

- Plaza 23 (Phillips Edison Co.) – Frank Pinto reported that the company that owns the Stop and Shop mail is a national company with the regional managers located in Cincinnati. Frank is arranging a site visit when the gentleman is in the NJ area.

- Schaefer Property – Frank provided update that appraiser is hired and the Township Engineer has been asked to prepare a development analysis report. He today, prepared and sent his report on to Frank Pinto.

- Trails Mapping Update – Frank reported that the large kiosk maps have been laminated and are ready to be given to Joe for install on kiosks that are already constructed. Frank reported that the folded map that will be available for the public, is being finalized and will be printed soon.

- Plantings along Pequannock Ave (Kerry) – Mr. Wells reported that at the last meeting, there was a young man from AmeriCorp. He has the ability to get the Township 500 native species trees for planting along the river. Kerry Heck then explained it further. 65% have to be trees and 35% have to be shrubs. You can pick 7 species of trees and 6 species of shrubs. Oaks, viburnum, and many other great trees were available for planting. You can get bundles of 25 or so of each species. It will be either a one or two-foot tree depending on the species. There is a four-foot-long tube that comes with each tree that is placed around each tree, along with a pole. The tube surrounds the tree and permits light to enable the tree to grow while it's also kept deer proof. Kerry will send out the list of trees. Joe reported that there is a deadline of April 16th to complete a grant application request. There is a requirement for 48-month maintenance. Joe indicated that we need volunteers. Joe will talk with High School environmental group and we'll get more volunteers. In addition to this program, there is another tree program from Morris County where the Township can get 500 saplings. They will need to be planted much more quickly. Julie mentioned that if we are able to get wood chips to mulch each tree we can get much better water retention for each tree making the likelihood of success significantly greater. Adam the AmeriCorp volunteer joined the meeting at this time. April 14th & 21st are the two dates that are being looked at for the tree plantings. Either one will be a prep day and the second will be the planting day. Robin will get volunteers from the Environmental Commission and also the Community Gardeners who may want to help out. Joe indicated that Adam is going to complete the application himself. Joe will report this work effort to the Town Manager.

2. NYS&W Rail Trail – Joe Wells reported on this project. Morris County Board of Transportation (that Joe sits on), said there was a meeting recently with Nathan Fenno, owner of NYS&W Railroad and Morris County representatives to look and review the encroachments that existing on the property. There were many encroachments identified. These landowners will be getting notices that these encroachments need to be removed. There are places where easements exist that allow people to cross the railroad line or to drive across the railroad line to access their lands.

3. Pio Costa Property – Joe spoke with Tony Pio Costa about the donation of the property. He initially indicated that 18 to 24 months was his timeframe. He now has indicated that he needs three to four years of maintaining wetlands created on the property. As such it will be a few years before we go forward with the acquisition.

4. Shirts for OS Comm members. Joe started the discussion. Frank has done all the work on getting the shirts researched and will coordinate their purchase once an agreement on style and color is concluded. The committee agreed to a “nice green” that wasn’t too dark for the logo. All present were in favor of the color Frank suggested. Frank than polled members for shirt sizes.

Rudy brought up that April 7th is the river cleanup. He is looking for trucks and volunteers.

Adjournment:

On motion of member Spizzirri with all in agreement, the meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

**Next meeting is Scheduled for:
Monday, April 9, 2018; 7:00 pm
530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444**

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank

Frank Pinto, Committee Facilitator