



**Township of Pequannock
Open Space Advisory Committee
September 10, 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 7:09 pm.

Voting Members Present (X):

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

Others Present (X):

X	Frank Pinto, Spinelli & Pinto Consulting, LLC		
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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 Jones, the Open Session minutes of the June 11, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously with member Herd abstaining, as he was not present.

Township Council Report:

Hon. Herd reported on the agenda for tomorrow’s meeting. They will consider the movement of funding for the Township municipal building. They will discuss what the baseline is to fix what needs to be fixed to address the building’s shortcomings as well as work that is needed at DPW structures. The discussion will be based on space requirements and needs throughout the municipal building.

There will be other issues discussed related to the water tower and the employee manual.

Planning Board Report:

Jeff reported that the board did not meet last month.

Environmental Commission Report:

Jeff reported that the Commission did not meet last month.

Historic District Commission Report:

No report given with member Safarik not present.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Report:

Rudy reported as he entered the meeting late being at this Committee's meeting that meets at the same time as the OS Committee meetings. They are looking for next year to open the swim lanes to the public next year, with a lifeguard present at all times.

The multi-use field should be open next year. They will be reconditioning 2 ballfields. They are looking at a waterslide for PV park. The idea is just being discussed with no set plan at the moment.

Review of Correspondence:

No correspondence was reviewed.

Pending Items Update:

1. Hoedown – Sept 15th – Joe asked who was able to attend and assist himself and Frank Spizzirri with tabling at the event. Member Jones stated that he will be available for the afternoon. Member Unger is able to show up for a couple hours as well. Julie will do two hours in the morning. Joe made a general comment on frisbee tossing skills of participants. Joe will have a picture book of the Riverwalk, Kiosks and to give credit to the volunteers.

2. Pompton Riverwalk
- Tree Planting along Pequannock Ave.

Joe reported that a pruning was needed. This is a 2 or 3-man job requiring the tubes to be lifted. The time to do this is now through the Fall before the winter. Robin suggested that some master gardeners in town can be asked to assist. There are 400 trees, so this will require quite a bit of labor hours to complete. Joe will work w/DPW on a plan to clear the weeds that are very tall and encompass all of the trees. The weeds need to be cleared to gain access to the newly planted trees.

- 2015 Trails Grant – Closed Out

Frank P. reported that the project has been closed out and the NJDEP has been paid.

- Kiosks – Scout Project

Joe reported that the Boy Scout that was earmarked to participate could not meet the 2015 Grant deadline. The project will be funded by the town now.

- Kiosks – Rotary Club

Joe reported that the Rotary is interested in sponsoring the North Pequannock Avenue kiosk.

- NJDWSC – Bauer & Covello Easement Updates:

Frank P. reported that he had talks with Les at the NJDWSC. Les supplied a deed for the Covello property. Frank has reached out to Karl Bauer to inform him the Township will be reaching out to him soon. Joe suggested we meet with Mr. Covello as a courtesy to let him know we'll be working with the Water District on the easement.

- Phillips Edison aka Rt 23 Plaza:

Frank P. reported that there is a site walk with reps of the landowner scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 18th at 10:30 AM. Joe Wells plans on joining him.

- Schaefer Property Update:

Frank P. reported on a recent phone conversation with David Schaefer. The landowner needs time before he can address the matter. Frank is to follow-up in December.

- Template Easement Document:

Frank P. reported that he has a sample trail easement document and asked if there was an existing standard / template easement for the Pompton Riverwalk. Frank will check with town attorney Bob Oostdyk on the matter as he and Dave Hollberg worked on the plan for these easements.

3. NYS&W Rail Trail (Joe & Frank)

Joe announced that there will be a public meeting on Thursday, October 11th from 6 to 8 PM at the Senior Center. He also reported on a meeting held July 31st with County reps and Township safety personnel. The trail will be 10-foot wide and will be made of “permeable” asphalt. It will be a Morris County Park and their responsibility for maintenance. Signage will be installed at the historic rail station and likely other locations. The encroachments are required to be addressed by the railroad. The substantial encroachments are being asked to be removed. Smaller encroachments will be addressed as properties are sold over time. The linear county park will operate from dawn the dusk. No lighting is planned for the trail.

Future Projects – Open Discussion

Joe stated that he’d like to turn over responsibility of the Riverwalk to the Parks Committee as it’s now a town park. The Riverwalk from Jackson Avenue to River Road is still pending and still a focus of the Open Space Committee. Joe feels that Aquatic Park needs an appropriate entrance, parking area and trail head to truly develop it into a park the public will visit and utilize. The Rail Trail will be open soon and this will help expose Aquatic Park to the public. The Rail Trail will have a parking area that Aquatic Park might be able to utilize. But Joe is not sure if this is the role of the Open Space Committee or should it be the Parks Committee role.

This would be a new Green Acres Trails Grant application in the next round. There were three trails that were installed over the years but all have been overgrown and no longer exist. Frank and Rudy made a motion with all in agreement to move forward with a trails grant and development plan for Aquatic Park.

Adjournment:

On motion of member Steinthal with all in agreement, the meeting concluded at 8:33 PM.

**Next meeting is Scheduled for:
Monday, October 8, 2018; 7:00 pm
530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444**

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank

Frank Pinto, Committee Facilitator