

MENDHAM BOROUGH OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF 7/13/2017 MEETING

Meeting Location: Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Connolly, at 7:00 PM.

B. OPENING STATEMENT:

Chairperson Connolly read the Adequate Notice Statement: Notice of this meeting was published in the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record and was posted on the bulletin board in the Phoenix House on the same date in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

C. ROLL CALL:

Mr. Connolly, Chair, present
 Mr. Barry, Vice Chair, present
 Mr. Sprandel, Secretary, absent
 Mr. Andrus, Council Representative, present
 Mr. Arena, absent
 Mr. DeBuvitz, present
 Mr. Topping, present
 Mr. Jephson, present
 Ms. Landau, Absent

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Mr. Topping moved to approve the minutes of 5/10/2017 meeting. Mr. Jephson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the committee.

E. OPEN SPACE FUND:

Mr. Connolly reported to the committee:

Previous Balance -	\$798,308
Income (Interest) -	\$199
Expenditures -	\$ 2,878
<u>Current Balance -</u>	<u>\$793,190</u>

F. Borough Council Update:

Mr. Andrus gave a review of current issues from the Borough Council, including; the appointment of two new police officers, and the selection process for the new police chief.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Scott Farm:

- **Barn Structural Report** - The report has been received is being review by the council. The news is not good; the barn is in poor condition and will require extensive repairs which could cost in the \$100,000+ or more. There is some who think that it would not be worth the cost since the intent of the acquisition was just to preserve the land.
- After extensive discussion, the group agreed that the barn was a critical part of the site, and it could well be the oldest existing structure of the Borough (from 1820), furthermore since 25% of the cost (\$111,250) of the acquisition was funded by the county historic commission, failure to preserve the barn would put that funding at risk. The committee would like to review the report and inspect the barn, Mr. Barry offered to get some resources to conduct the inspection. A request for the report will be sent to Mr. Merkt.
- **Perimeter Trail** – Approval of the trail by NJ is expected soon and construction will be done by DPW in September.
- **Antique Buckboard** – Mr. Jephson reported that he has taken measurements and the buggy will fit inside the white building along with the Phoenix House model. He mentioned that the Historic Society will obtain a trailer for the model.
- Mr. Andrus will contact Darby Scott to inquire about acquisition of the buckboard.

2. Rowe Sheep Farm:

- **Eight Year Farmland Preservation Program** - The property is in the process of obtaining a renewal of the county Eight-Year Preservation Program, the Borough will pass a resolution to make it municipally approved renewal.
- **Permanent Farmland Preservation Program** – Mr. Jephson will meet with Mr. Rowe and suggest a meeting with a sub-committee (Jephson, Connolly, & DeBuvitz) to assist with preparation of the permanent program application.

3. **Sisters of Christian Charity** - There is nothing new to report.

4. **Mountain Valley Dam Update** - The Borough is in the process of obtaining bids for the removal of sediment and the dredging of the pond. Plan to replace the dam are still pending. The sources of funding are also pending.

5. **West Field improvements** - The project to improve access for the handicapped and to install permanent bathrooms is in process.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Update Open Space Inventory** – A sub-committee to update the inventory of eligible properties was selected, (Mr. Connolly, Mr. Barry, & Mr. Topping, & Mr. DeBuvitz).
- **Abner Doubleday 200th Birthday Celebration** – Mr. Topping suggested that the Borough be encouraged to plan for an event to commemorate the 200th Birthday of Abner Doubleday, one of the most celebrated former residents of Mendham. The involvement of the Open Space Committee would be to prepare a map of significant open space properties in the Borough. Mr. Andrus supported the idea.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2017 at 7 PM in the Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ.