

**BOROUGH OF MENDHAM
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, ~~February~~ ^{January} 11, 2018 at 7:00PM

Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson George Connolly.
2. 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 in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

3. ROLL CALL

Mr. Andrus, Council Representative - Present
Mr. Arena - Absent
Mr. Barry - Present
Mr. Connolly, Chairman - Present
Mr. Sprandel, Secretary - Absent
Mr. Jephson - Present

E. 2018 REORGANIZATION

1. Election of Officers:

Chair – George Connolly
Vice Chair – Peter Barry
Secretary – David Sprandel

2. Approval of Dates – March 8 2018, May 10 2018, July 12 2018,
September 13 2018, November 8 2018, January 10 2019

3. Approval of Newspapers – Daily & Observer-Tribune

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of meeting of November 9, 2017 were approved as published

G. OPEN SPACE FUND

Previous Balance – 1/1/2017 - \$821,953
Income (Interest) - \$971
2017 Tax Receipts - \$110,772
MV Dam Expenditures - \$336,962
Other Expenditures - \$29,938
Current Balance – 12/31/17 - \$565,722

There was a discussion of the fund status. Although the final cost of the MV Dam project is not known, the final balance of the fund is expected to be quite low. John Andrus was asked to verify that there is or will be a resolution cover the replenishment of the fund and a commitment to fund open space opportunities via debt if required.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Scott Farm – The Barn Stabilization report prepared by Elise Dann was discussed. The report recommends 6 relatively simple steps be taken to stabilize the barn and recommends a budget of \$50,000 for this and other work.
2. Rowe Sheep Farm - The Development Potential report from the borough engineer is still pending and will be pursued by the new Administrator, Joyce Bushman.
3. Tranquility Garden – The possibility of moving the sign to make it more visible from the road was discussed. John Andrus will check to see if this can be done.
4. Use of Open Space fund - The possibility of raising the open specs tax from 1 ½ % to the authorized rate to of 2% was also discussed. John Andrus suggested that a report outlining the reason for this be submitted.

I. NEW BUSINESS

Peter Barry advised that the Environmental Commission was working on reviving the Borough Loop Trail.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

The next regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7PM at the Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ.

 5/10/2018