

**MINUTES OF THE April 12, 2018
POMPTON LAKES OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm.

Present were Mayor Mike Serra, Councilman Erik DeLine, Environmental Officer Ed Merrill, Maria Kent, Julie Doncoes, Mike Riga, Orlando Mundaca, Lauren Venin, Tim Troast, Randy Hinton for Ann Tacinelli and Board Secretary Kathy Troast. Council Liaison Ek Venin, Adam Kent for Frank Russo, Mike Barbara, and Andy Silverstein were excused.

Minutes- February 8, 2018: Approved

- **Passaic County Open Space Ordinance/Open Space Trust Fund Referendum:** Councilman DeLine explained the language of the current ordinance and explained to the committee that due to the State and Federal programs such as Blue Acres there are limited properties available to purchase. Councilman DeLine went on to say that because of the recent tax reassessment the fund balance will be doubled and asked the committee if they were in agreement that the trust fund should be more flexible which will lead to the drafting of an Ordinance. Councilman DeLine explained that there will need to be a Referendum. The Councilman provided each member along with the Mayor a copy of 1) Open Space Ordinance with current language and initial proposed amended language, 2) Open Space Trust Fund Ordinance previously proposed but pulled back when determined a referendum was necessary to amend the ordinance. The Borough Attorney reviewed this document. 3) Fair Lawn Open Space Referendum to be used as a guide. Councilman DeLine proceeded to go through each section of the ordinance that had been previously reviewed by the borough attorney. There was discussion on each item of the ordinance. The committee made minor edits to some sections of the Ordinance simplifying the language however it was determined that they were comfortable with most of the language within the Ordinance. The members then reviewed Fair Lawn's Open Space Referendum used as a guide to formulate language for the proposed referendum to be put before the Borough Attorney for his review. The Borough Attorney will formulate the question to be put on the ballot. Mayor Serra explained the process of the Ordinance and wanted to make sure the committee understood that the committee is making a recommendation to make the changes on the usage of the fund and that the final decision is made by the Mayor and Council.
- **Morris Canal Greenway:** The project is under construction and moving forward very quickly and expected to be completed soon. Randy Hinton of Shade Tree informed the committee that the contractor is doing a fine job. There are some dead trees that need to be taken care of. Randy suggested to the Contractor not to plant until the dead trees were taken care of, Councilman DeLine will see if this is possible. There was discussion of the type of equipment that could be used to maintain the trail and it was determined that it would need to be light equipment. Councilman DeLine will speak with the Administrator to see what can be done regarding removing the dead trees.
- **Trails Maintenance Subcommittee Report:** Lauren Venin reported that there was lots of destruction from the past storms and she has a call into the County. Passaic County Parks will evaluate the situation and see what can be done. The areas have been stabilized and secured for now. April 22nd is Family Hike day at Tourne Park. May 12th is trails maintenance day. T Shirts are available and cost \$13.50 per shirt.

- **Green Team:** Through a grant we have hired a person to gather information to work toward sustainable NJ. The deadline is in June. Paperwork will be submitted to Sustainable NJ. Most of the points are things we already do however they need to be documented.
- **Open Space Committee Position:** There is an open position in District 1. If anyone knows someone who may be interested contact Erik DeLine.
- Erik DeLine made motion to adjourn, seconded by Maria Kent to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:40 p.m. All voted in favor.

Kathy Troast
Kathy Troast, Secretary