

Open Space Committee Agenda/Minutes

Meeting of 6/27/2024

In attendance: Mike A, Amy S, Les G, Roger S, Tom S, Ben H, Janet H, Doug P

Approval of minutes from 3/28/2024: First Les G; Second Mike A

New format to meeting going forward- Starting in 2024 we will be reducing the number of meetings to 4. These meetings will be held on March 28th, June 27th, September 26th and December 19th

Public Comment- Limited to 3 minutes

Properties

Farmers – Need to make sure the farmers are notifying the public when they are spraying the crop fields. It was suggested that we add a timeframe to the contracts for next year so that we can put signage at the kiosk for the appropriate property

Windy Acres – Mario's bee hives are in and appropriate fencing has been added by DPW, Mushroom class was well received, Still need posts to install sign at entrance to parking lot

Prostak East – Supposedly trees blocking trails have been removed

Prostak West – Looking at a possible grant for trees to maintain stream bank from erosion

Hacketts – Residents complained that farmer sprayed crops but did not put sign up (See Above), There is a small refrigerator off the trail, Need DPW to remove it. If they don't get to it suggestion was to have the hunters remove it in the fall.

Brays – There was some storm damage from the storm we had this week. DPW to address

Cramer's Creek - Need to order parts and supplies for tee pads, Ben H as already provided a detailed list of what was needed. It was agreed that volunteers could do the install per conversation with Jay M, Brian M and Mike A., Tom S will address status of order. Will need a small kiosk for 5K trail

BBR –Per Mike M foot traffic has been good and no problems noted, Discussed possible parking on David Post and Herman Thau, Group decided that this was not a good idea.

Springside – Nothing

Eton Ct – Property need to be posted as certain residents are utilizing OS property as their own.

General – It was suggested to do a mailing to all property owners within 200 feet of OS space property detailing the rules related to OS properties

It was suggested by the current Administrator that we use OS funds to acquire a UTV for DPW to maintain the hiking trails at a cost of \$23K. Everyone on the committee felt that this would change the character of the trails we have and therefore did not agree with this purchase.

Possible Acquisitions – Mike A addressed properties in question in detail

Deer hunt program- Applications have been received, Currently 12 teams, Still some openings. Orientation will be on 7/9 and 7/16.

Hunterdon County OSC Meeting – Nothing to report

OTHER

Signage needed

No Foraging

No trapping

Dogs on leashes and poop pick up rules

No parking signs for Herman Thau Rd

Projects that need to be completed by DPW

- 1) Tee boxes – Disc golf (Being handled by volunteers)
- 2) Eaton Court – property needs to be posted and need signage
- 3) Block trail at Brays Hill made by resident
- 4) Maintain trail around spring house at Brays Hill
- 5) Maintain trails all properties
- 6) 5K trail maintenance and relocation at Cramers Creek, also fitness trail relocation
- 7) Birds in pavillion at Windy Acres
- 8) Install sign at entrance to Windy Acres at Mike M's house
- 9) Dog signage
- 10) Stop ATV's from accessing Windy Acres
- 11) No parking signs for Herman Thau Rd
- 12) Signs when farmers spray to notify hikers – Needs to be in contract
- 13) Remove refrigerator from hiking trail at Hacketts
- 14) Trees that have fallen into the Beaver Brook could a problem with the bridge on Herman Thau Rd in the event of a heavy rain

Mike A to meet with new Administrator, once hired, to discuss use of volunteers to maintain hiking trails

Motion to adjore meeting – First Roger S, Second Amy S

Next meeting is 9/26/2024 at 6PM