

BOROUGH OF KINNELON
OPEN SPACE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2010

The OSPAC Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm on April 14, 2010. Carol S. read the Sunshine Provision:

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of New Jersey of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was given by publishing a notice of this meeting in the January 6, 2010 edition of the Trends. This notice was also sent to the Star Ledger and North Jersey Herald News and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board

Roll Call/In Attendance: Bob Collins, Jeff Derwin, Amanda Hagl, Mary Fisher, Carol Sventy, Carol Vreeland and Matt Dank. Absent: Lucy Meyer, Karimah Munem, Gene Orcutt

Hearing from the Public: No public present

Review / approve meeting minutes:

- The minutes for the November 11, 2009 meeting were approved by a motion from Bob Collins and seconded by Amanda Hagl.
- The minutes for the January 13, 2010 meeting were approved by a motion from Carol Vreeland and seconded by Jeff Derwin

Council Committee Report – Bob Collins

- Weber tract – Bob reported that The Morris County Park Commission (MCPC) had requested a sub-division of 62 acres that would be added to Silas Condict Park. The MCPC's attorneys are reviewing the sub-division. The sub-division will not include any of the surrounding vernal pools. Closing on the property should take about 45 days. Carol V. asked if there was a possibility of anyone changing their minds at this point. Bob stated that a contract is a contract and he didn't foresee any problems. Last year's Morris County OS trust fund had funds left over and there was a reduction in the OS tax so there is a little tax relief.
- Bob recommended a reduction in the Kinnelon Open Space tax. We currently have 1.1 million set aside in a trust fund and we need \$300,000 for Weber Tract. Our current tax levy generates \$260,000 reducing that by 30% will get generate \$164,000 annually. Jeff was concerned that if the tax is reduced, would it be possible to increase it again in the future should we need it for future acquisitions. Jeff also asked if it was in an interest bearing account Bob said that it is in a dedicated trust account that does earn interest. There are **residents** in town that **who** like to use Kinnelon's Open Space Trust fund dollars for artificial turf. Bob confirmed that this fund can be used for OS and recreation, but before any artificial turf can be installed, we would have to get an exemption for an impervious surface from the Highlands Commission. Carol V. mentioned that it was on the town survey that active recreation was very low **priority**. If Highland **Council** denies an exemption, then that puts an end to any artificial turf field behind the borough hall in Kinnelon because it is a preservation area. If they grant an exemption, then the Mayor & council can commit dollars for this. Carol V. asked if there would be a referendum on it, and Bob said no, the Mayor & Council would have the authority to use the funds if an exemption was granted. Carol S. asked if a committee to research the pros/cons of an artificial turf field would be in order and Bob thought it was premature. **He** thought that without a public hearing he didn't think they would move forward with any decisions like this. The public didn't vote in favor of an OS tax with the intent of developing artificial turf fields. The area being considered for artificial turf is behind the municipal building and it's a field that gets really wet in the spring. Behind this area is the 30 acres that is being considered for a Community Garden.

Land Conservancy of NJ Report – Matt Dank

- Matt reported Green Acres will have another funding round before 7/31/10. Kinnelon currently has 1 million dollars with \$300,000 being used for the Weber Tract. Since Kinnelon has close to 1 million, Matt doesn't know if Green Acres will award us any more dollars. Green Acres has been taking funding away from other municipalities that aren't using it (approx. \$40 million). Re: 'fund raiding': Matt mentioned a recent article about a Shade Tree commission, which used Shade Tree funds to update & open parks for the season. These funds were originally to be used to replace trees where government or other construction had removed or destroyed trees. Matt mentioned this as an 'FYI' and said that it could establish a precedent to other such funds being 'raided' in the future.
- Weber Tract is ready to go. He spoke with the surveyor and the survey is complete, the next step is drafting and this should take a day or two and hopefully it will be done by May/June. Once it closes the Kinnelon Open Space map will be updated.

- A motion to move into Closed Session was made by Mary Fisher and seconded by Jeff Derwin.
- A motion to move out of Closed Session was made by Mary Fisher and seconded by Carol Vreeland.

Old Business:

- Community Garden – Carol S. suggested forming a sub committee to look into what properties are available, what liabilities & what kind of insurance is needed. Carol S. put together a tick list of starting a Community Garden and mentioned a list of websites from Matt from Morristown, West Milford and Roxbury for Urban & Organic gardens. Bob stated that he liked Amanda's suggestion of using the Museum and the Girl Scouts to start up something. Matt had mentioned a project that is being done in Livingston, (Orchard Hill Sub Committee) and he will get the information from them and forward it to Mary. Amanda Doremus is the Girl Scout looking to do the project. Mary Fisher was looking for information for a Rain Garden. Rain Gardens are used in low lying areas with lots of water. They use different layers of soils and sand and use native plants which help with filtering the water.
- Jeff had asked if the support for the Community Gardens was favored by the council. The council does support the Community Gardens more than open space. Matt said that a lot of times they argue the fact of developing open space because you need to have more fire, teachers, police, road dept. and ends up costing more money for the property owners. Bob stated that the Weber Tract vote went 5 to 1 in favor of the project. Jeff said that we need to encourage a better attitude by educating the council & the citizens as to what we are actually doing and change their attitudes for the better toward Open Space. Matt also said that this is why having High School students on the committee to get different opinions and ideas, is such a great idea. People drive up Rt. 23 and they are annoyed until they get to Kinnelon and they see a line drawn where Kinnelon decided not to develop and keep their land as is. Carol S. and Carol V. also stated that when you drive up RT 23 there is an odor and how do people like to look out their windows and see Home Depot as your view. Bob also said the NJ Monthly Magazine rated Kinnelon #21, and has moved up a number of spots.
- Kinnelon Service Directory – OSPAC listing – Carol S. showed a copy of directory to show what was put on the page.
- Medication Drop off Centers – Chilton Hosp. – Carol Vreeland called Chilton Memorial Hospital regarding where they dispose of their over/under counter medications. She is waiting for a call back. Was not just talking about hazardous waste and diabetic needles, but more about cough medicines, aspirins and any over/under the counter medicines. Carol V. spoke to Eileen Zappia from the Environmental Commission regarding this. Eileen said if the Open Space Committee wants to do it that's fine. Eileen tried to do some research, but was unable to find much information about it. Carol V. said that the Kinnelon Police Dept. did a collection not too long ago for prescription drugs only. She said that a safe place for collection is needed and then the container needs to be picked up by someone to dispose of it properly. Carol V. was also considering contacting some drug companies to ask what their policies are for safely disposing of their products. Amanda suggested the police department set up some collection dates for people to drop off. If it was more local maybe people would be more likely to dispose of it properly instead of having to drive down to Chilton or another location.

New Business

- Trail Development - May 10, 2010 Trail funding forum. Carol S. plans to attend this trails funding forum. Bill Foelsch chairman of the NJ Trails Council will be speaking about funding resources available to municipalities for creation and/or maintenance of trails systems. Carol S. was going to ask Mary Derstine and some members of CLL Hiking Group to see if they would like to attend.

Adjournment: at 8:31, a motion from Jeff Derwin to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mary Fisher.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00pm

At the June 9, 2010 OSPAC committee meeting, the minutes for April 14, 2010 meeting were approved with changes on a motion made by Carol Vreeland and seconded by Amanda Hagl, all present were in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Benway