

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

OPEN MEETING:

Mr. Pfeiffer called the regular meeting of the Harding Open Space Trust Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced the meeting was called in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

HOST Attendance: Ms. Devine, Mr. Dietz, Mr. Jones, Mr. Novotny (arrived at 8 pm), Mr. Pfeiffer, Mr. Platt, Mrs. Somers, and Mr. Wepler

Excused Absence: Mrs. Riley and Mr. Sovolos

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Members of the Public: None

MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2019:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if there were any comments or changes with regards to the July 11, 2019 meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Mr. Wepler, seconded by Mrs. Somers, Mr. Jones and Mr. Platt abstained, and with a votes of all ayes, none opposed, the HOST meeting minutes for July 11, 2019, were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

Management Plans

Dear Management Plan – A discussion on the Dear Management Plan was discussed. Mr. Wepler commented that one change not discussed is mowing a path around the eastern side of the driveway.

- * A path will be mowed around the western side.
- * Mow along ridge, along back and up the stream line.
- * Mowing timeframe was discussed. Mow meadows two times.
- * Mow path May/July/September – L. Wepler will get quotes.
- * L. Wepler mentioned going to NCRS or others to begin stabilization practices that are feasible and cost effective.
- * Land owners need to be notified this will be done for all management plans.
- * M. Devine will check the bridle easement for Koven property to determine if walkers can use this path.
- * Path along perimeter of the wetland property and Blue Mill Road.
- * Cost for mowing around \$1,200.00

Rossell Management Plan – L. Wepler mentioned that Rosell and Lake Shore Property are incorporated together.

- * If Japanese Knotweed is found, have this removed.
- * Walk annually – It was mentioned that all properties should be walked annually.
- * If streams are blocked – remove blockage.

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Scudder Management Plan – L. Wepler mentioned that the Township owns 18 percent.

- * Set by Audibon which manages this property.

Frelinghuysen I – located between James Street and Osford Lane along Wexford Lane.

- * Mow once a year.

Let the record show that Mr. Novotny joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Margetts Field – L. Wepler commented that this is actually three (3) properties; hayfield, woods, and meadow along featherbed.

- * Hay field is handled by Circle Holly Farms. HOST pays for fertilization. Will be mowed once a year after July 15th. Mowing will be conducted to control invasives and to enhance the hay crop.
- * Woods – DPW will clear Bridle Trail along the road in 2020. Invasive plants along the Bridle Trail and between Bridle Trail and Blue Mill will be controlled and the vines will be removed from the trees in this area at that time.
- * Meadow along Featherbed will be maintained as a meadow.

A discussion ensued regarding Primrose and the Gatehouse.

Primrose – discussed the boardwalks and the possible cost.

Gatehouse – discussed the grant the Land Trust has applied for. The cost was \$120,000, with \$60,000 will be matching funds, and \$60,000 will be from grants. The Township portion could be about \$42,000. The cost for mowing, gutters, tree trimming, etc., is about \$2,000.

Mr. Pfeiffer asked for a motion to send the five management plans to the Township Administrator for review by the Township Committee and acceptance. Upon a motion made by Mr. Wepler, seconded by Mrs. Devine, and with a votes of all ayes, none opposed, Mrs. Sharp will send the Management Plans to the Township Administrator.

A discussion ensued regarding the management plans that have easements on them. M. Devine commented should the Township Committee be asked what management plans should be done for these properties. M. Devine asked what happens when property owner's do not want to do what is stated in the easements. There should be a process.

2020 Expense Budget

Mr. Wepler provided each HOST member with a spreadsheet of the HOST properties expenses. L. Wepler will meet with Jordan Leff from the Land Trust to go over specific annual costs. A discussion ensued and the following is what will be budgeted for 2020 HOST expenses.

Von Zuben -	420
Wexford / James -	420
Margetts Field	3,000
Dear -	1,200
Gatehouse	44,070 (includes \$42,000 for trail – TC will need to review)
Primrose	5,000
Culbertson	300 (mowing)

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Total is about \$54,410. Mrs. Sharp will enter this number into the 2020 expense budget. Mr. Weppler mentioned the 2020 budget may change once he has met with Jordan Leff.

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE HOST AND HEARING PERSONS PRESENT:

Master Plan -- A discussion regarding the Master Plan ensued. Mr. Dietz asked for McKinley Mertz to attend a HOST meeting. Mrs. Sharp informed HOST that the draft of the Master Plan will be discussed at the October Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board secretary will be sending notification to all Boards shortly regarding the Master Plan.

With no persons present and no further business a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:45 pm was made by Mr. Weppler and seconded by Mrs. Devine.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Pfeiffer

The meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:45 pm. Upon return to open session at 9:10 p.m., and with no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Weppler, seconded by Mr. Jones, and with all members in unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee