

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022
21 BLUE MILL ROAD, NEW VERNON, NJ 07976**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OPEN MEETING:

Mr. Pfeiffer opened the meeting by announcing adequate notice of this April 13, 2022 HOST meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

HOST Attendance: Ms. Chipperson, Ms. Devine, Mr. DeNave, Mr. Jones, Mr. Novotny, Mr. Pfeiffer, Mrs. Somers, and Mr. Wepler

Excused Absence: Mr. Bjorkedal

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Public Attendance: None

ACCEPTANCE OF THE HOST MINUTES FOR: FEBRUARY9, 2022:

February 9, 2022 Minutes:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if anyone had questions or comments with regard to the February 9, 2022 meeting minutes. J. Somers had sent an email for minor corrections. Mrs. Sharp amended the minutes to reflect the corrections. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Somers, seconded by Mr. Jones, Ms. Devine and Mr. Wepler abstained, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the amended February 9, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

Margetts Field – Warm Season Grasses

J. Novotny explained that the Environmental Commission did not have a chance to discuss this at their April meeting.

Mapping of Open Space

V. DeNave reported he would like a document that shows all Harding Township Open Space. V. DeNave has spoken with Morris County and M. Mertz, Township Planner who conducted Harding's Masterplan with regard to this document. V. DeNave would like the map to provide context of all the open space properties and provided a copy of a map to members of HOST for discussion purposes. The discussion included what items are important to HOST to be placed on the map:

- Ownership
- Wildlife
- Trails

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- Bridle Trails
- Farmland Preservation
- Recreation – legal definition of passive recreation, etc.

M. Devine commented that bridle trails should have their own map. M. Devine explained having a map where it shows open space is wonderful. V. DeNave reported that he would like each parcel to have its own folder which will include the deed, survey, etc. L. Wepler explained that the Township files already exist for open space properties with that information in it. J. Somers reported that the Highlands interactive map will go live in June 2022. A discussion ensued regarding the map, trails, and recreation. V. DeNave will provide the official definition for passive recreation.

Bayne Park

V. DeNave reported he has walked Bayne Park with Tracy Toribio and Donna Wilson (CPAC). There are dead trees, concerns with the dam, and stone concerns. D. Wilson has conducted much research with respects to Bayne Park and provided many discussion items for CPAC. T. Jones explained that everyone has an opinion with respects to Bayne Park and everyone should have an opinion. Therefore, there will be a public meeting on May 24, 2022 at 7 pm to for all residents to come in and have a say on some of the discussion items CPAC is presenting. T. Jones commented as L. Wepler stated months ago what does the Township want to see Bayne Park look like in 50+ years. A bried discussion ensued.

2022 HOST Budget

HOST reviewed the budget spreadsheet. The expenses in 2022 show the purchase of the Simon property and the Appleton #2 which leaves monies in HOST very lean. T. Jones explained once Glen Alpin has a redeveloper, they will maintain the property and all the expenses to the Township's specifications and parameters. L. Pfeiffer commented that the Township should keep control of the six acres in the front of Glen Alpin. A discussion ensued pertaining to the maintenance of Glen Alpin.

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

T. Jones explained that Hurstmont has taken down the house, the club house, and the trees which needed to be taken down before March 31, 2022 due to the Indiana Bat.

There were no hearing persons present.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by L. Wepler and T. Jones. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp, Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee