

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 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, Mr. Pfeiffer, Mr. Platt, Mrs. Riley, Mr. Sovolos, and Mr. Wepler

Excused Absence: Mrs. Somers

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Members of the Public: None

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 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 Mr. Jones, Mr. Solvolous, Mrs. Riley, and Mr. Novotny abstained, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the HOST meeting minutes for September 11, 2019, were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

Wexford Lane

An aerial view of Wexford Lane was placed on the overhead projection screens for discussion on mowing and boundaries. It was recommended that Mr. Jones conduct a site visit of the area with the Zoning Officer.

2020 Expense Budget

L. Wepler met with Harding Land Trust for a better understanding of the 2020 expenses for the open space properties. A copy of the revised proposed 2020 budget is attached to the meeting packet. The following properties were discussed:

Rossell Property – L. Wepler contacted Mr. Toribio, DPW Superintendent to discuss the possible clean-up of the fallen trees at this property. Mr. Toribio explained that he will require Township approval to contact the Coop. Mr. Wepler reported that the asphalt debris has been removed. Mrs. Sharp will contact the Township Administrator regarding using the Coop for the removal of the fallen trees and will notify the prospective parties of the outcome.

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Primrose Preserve – Two bids were received for the construction of the two boardwalks at the Barrett Field area trail. JE Fenimore Associates was the lowest bid at \$1,250. Mr. Wepler mentioned this is the Township's portion of the Primrose acquisition. A discussion ensued regarding the boardwalks and the wet areas.

Von Zuben – Mr. Scully and Mr. Leff from the Land Trust mentioned the possibility of extending the meadow ten yards on each side every year. L. Wepler explained that the meadow is working. There will be daffidils planted on the banks on Blue Mill and James Street. The program to treat the invasives at Von Zuben will continue.

Gatehouse – The following items were discussed regarding the Gatehouse:

- * Lease – time remaining on lease
- * Capital items in house is responsibility of Township, the rest is at 70% Township and 30% Land Trust
- * Grant – grant is multi-year to expand the trails.

Management Plans:

A discussion ensued regarding management plans. The Township Committee has invited HOST to attend the November 18th meeting to discuss the management plans submitted to the Township Administrator. L. Wepler mentioned that he would be able to attend from 7:30 to 8:00 pm.

- * **Eggert** – T. Jones explained that this management plan will be established when the redeveloper has committed to the trail that will link them.

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

Masterplan:

A discussion regarding the masterplan ensued. A reexamination of the Township's Masterplan is happening which means an examination of every element within the Masterplan; circulation element, recycling element, historic preservation, land use, housing, etc. Mrs. Sharp reported that there is a public comment session scheduled for the Planning Board on October 28, 2019. A flyer was sent to all Boards and Commissions on September 25, 2019. At the Planning Board meeting, they will solicit input from the public on what they would like to see in Harding. A draft plan **will not** be presented at that meeting.

Separate from the Masterplan reexamination, a new Open Space and Recreation Plan Element will be written. The two projects are running at the same time as each other. Once adopted, the new Open Space and Recreation Plan Element will be a brand new element of the Masterplan which will replace the 2008 Open Space Plan Element. The second public session to hear the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element has not been scheduled. A suggestion is that McKinley Mertz can attend a HOST meeting but this cannot happen until after the October 28th meeting.

With no persons present and no further business a motion to adjourn into executive session at 8:35 pm was made by Mr. Wepler and seconded by Mr. Novotny.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Pfeiffer

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The meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:35 pm. Upon return to open session at 8:48 p.m., and with no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wepler, seconded by Mr. Jones, and with all members in unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lisa A. Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee