

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
HARDING OPEN SPACE TRUST (HOST)
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 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, Mr. Sovolos, Mrs. Somers, and Mr. Weppler

Excused Absence: Mrs. Riley

Township Attendance: Mrs. Sharp, Secretary

Members of the Public: 0

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019:

Mr. Pfeiffer asked if there were any comments or changes with regards to the February 13, 2019 meeting minutes. Upon a motion made by Mr. Weppler, seconded by Mr. Dietz, and with a votes of all ayes, none opposed, the HOST meeting minutes for February 13, 2019, were accepted.

HOST UPDATES:

1. Mr. Dietz informed HOST that he attended the February 25, 2019 Township Committee meeting where they discussed the proposed amendment to the Open Space Ordinance and stated that the maintenance and management plans of Harding's Open Space properties were discussed. The haying of some fields was discussed. Several members had concerns that some fields should not be hayed. Mrs. Devine explained that each property has a management plan which has fees associated with the management plan for mowing, fertilizing, etc. A discussion ensued regarding what is the goal and what is the plan for the open space properties. A question was asked if we did not have a farmer for Margetts, would it just be mowed. The committee responded with yes.

Every year HOST has discussions about the County Open Space Tax and whether it should be 3 cents, 4 cents, or 5 cents, with a discussion on what the potential projects HOST can work on are. *Let the record show that Mrs. Somers arrived at 7:55 pm.* Mr. Platt stated that HOST should continue to conduct stewardship on the HOST properties as we have been doing each year. Mr. Weppler read a prepared statement of his opinion regarding the proposed amendment to the HOST ordinance into the minutes. A copy of the prepared statement is attached to these minutes. The following questions were raised and a spirited discussion ensued:

- * If one cent is held for stewardship of properties, is the money returned to the general fund at the end of the year if not used?
- * Lets recommend to the Township Committee to increase the Open Space Tax from four cents to five cents.
- * Some of the changes to the Open Space Ordinance are amending the following sections; membership, terms of office, funding, and powers and operating procedures.

Harding Open Space Trust Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019

- * If a property is purchased with Open Space funds, the maintenance of the property should be discussed.
- * HOST should review all properties to see what the needs of each are.

It was recommended that HOST review the proposed Ordinance changes and make recommendations. A copy of the letter from HOST to Mr. Falzarano with their recommendations regarding the proposed Open Space Ordinance is appended to these minutes.

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE HOST AND HEARING PERSONS PRESENT: NONE

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Pfeiffer

Having no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pfeiffer seconded by Mr. Jones, with all members in unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. to executive session to discuss possible property acquisitions. No formal action will be made.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Harding Open Space Trust Committee