

MINUTES OF THE PENNINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held VIRTUALLY AT 7:30PM; MAY 15, 2024

This document was prepared by the Secretary, John Jackson, Vice Chairman (Absent) Present
Mart. Rinckwell: Arr. 8:05pm
Kit Chandler: Boro Council Liaison, Present
Nancy Fishman, Present

In attendance: Voling and Alternate Members:

Abn Hershey (Chairman), Present
Jason Meyer. Absent
Dan Pace (Secretary). Present
Arthur Pircone (Alternate 2), Present

John Jackson, Vice Chairman (Absent) Present
Mart. Rinckwell: Arr. 8:05pm
Kit Chandler: Boro Council Liaison, Present
Nancy Fishman, Present

Guests: None

Chairman Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

Agenda Items:

Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2024 Adoption: Dan moved that the open and closed meeting minutes be adopted as presented. Nancy Seconded. Voling members unanimously present and in attendance at the meeting. Unanimously approved the minutes.

Open Space Plan (OSRP): Alan reviewed with the Committee the final OSRP. Elements that had been approved at the last Committee meeting pending revisions discussed at that time. Members had a few comments on the plan and identified the need for a few grammatical formatting changes: checked with a motion by Nancy. Seconded by John, the revised plan was adopted for forwarding to the Planning Board for final Plan Committee.

Green Acres Funding Grants: Alan and Dan discussed what they thought was a recent change in rules by Green Acres conservation easement funding. That was a grant reduction to 50% of Green Acres Certified Value to 25%. They eventually learned that while the application of 25% was not new, it was likely not officially enforced because of a corollary to the rule that allowed for 50% funding provided there was "meaningful public interest". It is the word meaning that Green Acres seems to be now emphasizing as evidenced from recent discussions Alan and Dan have had with Green Acres representatives. So, future Open Space applications by Pennington would be eligible for a 50% grant while easement purchases would only be 25%, meaning more from the Pennington Open Space Trust Fund, unless Green Acres can be satisfied that the required public interest "meaningful", thus garnering at 50% grant.

Closed Session: At 8:02pm on a motion by Alan, seconded by John, the Committee unanimously agreed to enter into Closed Session to discuss matters of a confidential nature of interest.

The Committee adjourned the Closed and Open Public Meeting at 8:23pm pursuant to a motion by Alan, seconded by Nancy, and unanimously approved.

Minutes by Secretary:

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Daniel Pace
Minutes Adopted by /f, 2024