

OPEN SPACE PLANNING and OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 14, 2010

Present: Mike Halper, Bill Karn, Kathleen Kudla, Pam Meyers, Allison Norvil, and Margaret Sabo

Absent: Mike Costa (excused)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10 PM.

Guest: None

Approval of Minutes: None

Chairman Karn opened the meeting and informed all the members the committee's work will now include planning for open space use and the Tratina farm and future developments will be an operating item on the agenda.

The chairman then introduced all the members. Each of the members gave a brief statement so we would know a little about each other and how we can each contribute to the work of the committee. Chairman Karn reported that member Mike Costa had requested a temporary leave of absents and will really be missed. Mike and I joined the committee together and he has done so much for the township it will hard to get some things done. We should all try to help Mike in any way we can. Bill Karn volunteered to help Pam Meyers develop a form letter and get the roofing quotes for the farmhouse. The Town Board has previously approved up to \$10,000.00. Bill Karn ask Kathy Kudla to help with the recognition plaque. When Bill completes the woodwork he and Kathy will go to the engravers and have them arrange and mount the plates since this there kind of business. This will help in a small way to relieve Mike's workload on this committee.

Pam Meyers, Margaret Sabo and Bill Karn gave a short presentation on the history of the Township open space program from the Preserve Homer Committee, the election in November of 1997, which included three referendum questions:

1. Open Space requesting 8 million dollars which passed
2. Senior Housing requesting 4 million dollars which passed
3. To form a Park District which failed to pass.

The volunteer effort to construct a grassy play area at the Ron Paul Farm in 2003 and the area being returned to agriculture in 2008. Also mentioned were all the different fund raising events and the OSRD Grant for the Tratina Farm. Pam Meyers mentioned that since we did such an excellent job of following all the rules for the grant it should help with future grant request. It was mentioned we need to continue to look for grant money to complete the Tratina Farm and future project. Pam Meyers mentioned that the rental received from the farmers pays the taxes on the property if we change the designation of the property we will not be required to pay taxes but the idea was to keep it on the tax rolls to help the schools.

Margaret Sabo suggested we check the old minutes for the original plans for the Ron Paul property. Plans had been made for a park at the Purdy Farm and was also considered for a wetland mitigation

bank because of the wetlands on the property.

The committee agreed to keep the meeting date on the 2nd Thursday at 7 PM

The Chairman requested the committee to think and research ideas for all the open space property to suit the needs of the residents but to keep in mind we must follow the State Statues and the Township Mission Statement for Open Space.

A question was ask if the 10 acres behind the Founder Crossing Shopping Center was open space or township property, Pam said the property belongs to the township and was for a community center when funds are available. It was originally planned to be a referendum item with open space but you can only have a limited number of referendums at each election it was decided to save it for a future referendum.

Margaret Sabo passed out the following handouts, which contain suggestions for future plans.

1. Beyond Basics – Green infrastructure for clean water.
2. Public opinion Strategies – Findings on survey on conservation.
3. Conservation foundation open space referrals assuring publics funding for open space acquisition.
4. Manmade Light – List of presentations on lighting practices.

Margaret Sabo mentioned that several County/Township have developed some of their open space. It would be a good idea to review them. She mentioned Libertyville, Campton, Lemont Township and other townships. Bill Karn said he has a concept plan and information on the dog park.

Margaret explained about seeking landmark status for the Tratina Farm House and the need to get a grant to help with the materials and labor. Mike Halper was interested in the type of siding and will be a good a good source to help Mike Costa when he returns.

The committee after some discussion voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Board to approve the “Thanks Jordan Foundation” request to use the dog park for a fundraiser on May 8, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Minutes Approved by the OSPO Committee 2-11-10

Bill Karn Chairman