

**OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE &  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION COMBINED MEETING  
May 6, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Present for OSFP: Grania Allport(Chair), Deonne Boxer, Jim Jones, Art Stappenbeck(EC), and Staci Santucci (Township Committee Liaison).

Absent: Jason Andris.

Present for EC: Jeff Leonard(Chair), Robbie Lert(Vice Chair), Art Stappenbeck (OSFP) George Rodelius(LUB) Renee Mareski, Jane Martin, Don McNab, R. Colin Hickey, Ken Olsen (Township Committee EC Liaison) and Larry Jacobs (Township Committee).

Absent:

The regular and executive session minutes for the April meeting were approved.

The joint field trip taken on March 29th was discussed. Grania informed the EC that we were going to do a trial of organic fertilizer and weed killer on Miller field before deciding if it would be used on all township fields. Staci will find out if other towns are using it and we can try to form a co-op. Discussed a joint meeting with the Recreation Department to further discuss organics and possibly using that as a way to get more interest in others using our fields thus generating more income.

Both dog park fencing are in need of repair or tightening. Discussed replacing the temporary fencing with permanent, but that is a capital expense and the cost can not come out of the Open Space budget. The Rec department is also trying to come up with a plan to raise the money for replacing that fence. Open Space committee will check the Burnt Mills park dog fence and make recommendations on fixing it.

Discussion on putting a roof over the Stahl area mild shed and taking down the walls took place. It is also a capital expense and capital must be raised for that.

Judy Sullivan informed us that the burial grounds at the old township site is not mowed because they are not sure where all the graves are

and the land is meant to be fallow for a more natural look. The township is working on placing a marker in the area of the burial grounds.

The Hyde property is still being washed out in heavy rains. Several solutions were discussed and it was determined that we may need an engineer to go over that area and determine what solutions are available. It may take a combination of several. Adding more rip rap will not stop the problem and may cause more problems when it is constantly washed away down stream.

There are still no leads on renters for the Pony Farm. It was discussed that the best solution may be to tear the house down before it becomes an eyesore. There are already many items that need repaired and the cost is too much for the town to ever get the costs back due to the fact it can't be rented out to any thing but a not-for-profit environmental company. Beth is checking to see if there are any other restrictions on the property. It is an original Sears & Roebuck catalog home but not of any historical value at this time.

The town has applied for another leg of the Hike and Bike trail and is awaiting the permits from the DEP for the crossing areas in the wetlands and near the river.

The OPFP committee is in need of two new members with the passing of Mrs. Merck and the resignation of Jon Gibson. There is one possible new member in the works.

The EC made a suggestion for possible fund raising for some of the projects we can't use open space funds for. Staci will look into what type of restrictions the town may have on using that type of fund raising.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deonne Boxer