

Open Space Committee

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order: 7:06 PM

X COHN X BIDDLE ___ INDELICATO

X KAUFMAN ___ LAMB X LANE X MOULTON

BOS Liaison: STERLING X NESTER X Staff Liaison: LEE X

Before starting the agenda items, the group went around to do a quick introduction to welcome new OSC member, Josh Cohn.

2. Re-Organization

- a. Selection of Chair – Chris Lane nominated Steve Kaufman to serve as Chair, seconded by Joan Biddle. Mr. Kaufman accepted the nomination. The OSC members voted and passed unanimously for Steve Kaufman to serve in the role of Chair for the 2018 calendar year.
 - b. Selection of Vice-Chair – Steve Kaufman nominated Chris Lane to serve as Vice-Chair, seconded by Hugh Moulton. Mr. Lane accepted the nomination. The OSC members voted and passed unanimously for Chris Lane to serve in the role of Vice-Chair for the 2018 calendar year.
3. Approval of the November, 2017 meeting minutes – Mr. Lane made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Biddle. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
 4. 2018 Meeting Schedule – Mr. Kaufman went over the 2018 meeting schedule consisting of the following dates.
 - January 24, 2018
 - April 25, 2018
 - July 25, 2018
 - October 24, 2018

5. Abolition Hall Discussion – the abolition hall discussion was moved up in the agenda due to several members of the public in attendance interested in this topic. Ms. Sydelle Zove and Ms. Celine Childs gave a presentation on the proposed development at the site of Abolition Hall currently under review by the Township Planning Commission. Mr. Kaufman, due to his relationship with Ms. Zove, announced that he would recuse himself from any recommendations that the OSC would make, if any, on concerning topic. Mr. Lane, as the Vice Chair, stepped in to chair this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Zove provided the OSC with a background of the historic significance of the property of Abolition Hall along with the proposed plans currently under review by the Planning Commission for a conditional use application. Ms. Zove circulated a flyer that was created by a community group concerned about this new development with further background information on the property, images of the proposed plans and a suggested revised plan that they would like for the developers to consider.

In addition, Ms. Zove shared with the OSC members that she'd like the Township's support in purchasing some of the lands currently proposed for development as a way to "buy down density" on the site and preserve more open space through an easement acquisition by utilizing the Township's Act 153 funds.

Further discussions took place about the appraisals that were already conducted on the property a couple of years back and a request for another appraisal to be conducted on the property now that the zoning approvals have been issued, which may alter the appraised value.

Mr. Moulton also asked if there have ever been similar situations where Act 153 funds have been utilized for the purpose of decreasing density of a development, to which there have not been any known cases due to the fact that very few municipalities have an Act 153 fund to begin with.

The Open Space Committee members thanked Ms. Zove and Ms. Childs for attending the OSC to give the presentation and will consider Ms. Zove's request.

The Open Space Committee discussed the topic further and a motion was made by Mr. Moulton to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to explore reasonable methods of open space preservation for this site. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lane. The motion passed unanimously, excluding Mr. Kaufman who had recused himself.

6. Updates/Discussion on Highlands Resolution – Ms. Lee provided the group with an update that the resolution that the OSC passed at the last meeting was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for review and further discussion. Mr. Kaufman shared that upon speaking with Ms. Walter of the Highland Historic society, the state PHMC is putting a lot of pressure on them for a more firm answer on their intent to take over the structure. Ms. Lee responded that she will

follow up with the Board of Supervisors at the next meeting and share the OSC's interest in the Board's response.

7. Open Space Funding Report discussion – final edits – the group discussed some final edits to the report with a couple of formatting corrections. Ms. Lee will circulate the final draft to the OSC members and will also include a condensed version for the Township newsletter.
8. Adjournment – next meeting April 25, 2018. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.