

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2019  
POMPTON LAKES OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Present were Councilman Erik DeLine, Council Liaison Jennifer Polidori, Maria Kent, Julie Doncoes for Lauren Venin, Randy Hinton for Ann Tacinelli, Mike Barbara, Mike Riga, Lauren Venin, Tim Troast, Mike Simone and Board Secretary Kathy Troast. Mayor Michael Serra, Cindy McNamara and Orlando Mundaca were excused.

**Minutes- January 10, 2019:** Approved

**Ordinance For Open Space Membership**

Councilman DeLine informed the committee the Ordinance will be changed to reflect the addition of District 6 along with the method Mr. Troast suggested which the Borough Attorney has reviewed and agreed would work best for the committee's necessities to operate efficiently. Councilman DeLine outlined the changes and after lengthy discussion all members were in agreement this would be the best approach. Borough Attorney Joseph Ragno is working on the final changes to the Ordinance and when completed the Ordinance will be placed on the Council Meeting Agenda.

**Passaic County Open Space Application**

Councilman DeLine informed the committee the Borough is seeking funding to facilitate the cost of the Willow Field Project by applying for a County Grant. The County has made a new ruling that affects the manner in which the County allows funds to be spent on projects. Councilman DeLine further explained the County funds in which the maximum amount is now \$250,000 are required to be used within a timely manner and not permitted to sit dormant in the Open Space Trust Fund. Mr. Simone suggested phasing the project out over a one year period. Ms. Venin commented if the project needs to be phased out expect to incur soft costs. Councilman DeLine explained the application is for improvements and relocation with a construction cost of \$322,000 and this will be one phase of the project and is prepared to continue to phase the project as necessary.

There was discussion regarding permits, tree replacement, maintaining the property during and after the renovation and time frame of the project.

**Muller Property Improvements Subcommittee**

The subcommittee was unable to meet over the winter however a date will be set to meet within the next few weeks. Mr. Simone inquired as to the plans for the area. Maria Kent updated Mr. Simone on the proposed project.

**Trails and Maintenance**

The first Winter Maintenance Day was very successful however the 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Maintenance day had to be cancelled due to bad weather conditions. Ms. Venin stated the committee is trying to involve community groups and have reached out to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The 1<sup>st</sup> Family Hike Day will be on April 13th at Mount Hope Historical Park. Councilwomen Polidori inquired if dogs were allowed in the park. Ms. Venin explained some parks allow pets and others do not and suggested Councilwomen Polidori look on the website or call the park before bringing her pet.

**Public Discussion:**

Julie Doncoes expressed her concern with the deer that are eating the undergrowth and noticed the tree foliage has been quite bare compared to years ago.

Randy Hinton agreed with Ms. Doncoes and stated he has approached the council many times regarding this issue.

Maria Kent suggested bringing Dr. DeVetto in for a second presentation.

Mr. Barbara stated the situation is problematic and the deer will not disappear if you have a Deer Hunt in Pompton Lakes. It will take all the surrounding towns to do the same otherwise the deer will return.

Councilman DeLine explained the situation is a Regional Issue and suggested concerned parties reach out to the Environmental Protection Commission.

Motion to adjourn – Lauren Venin, 2nd Councilwomen Polidori Adjourn 8:12 P.M.

Kathy Troast  
Kathy Troast, Secretary