

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2022
POMPTON LAKES OPEN SPACE MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m.

Member	Present	Excused
Mayor, Mike Serra		X
Council President, Jennifer Polidori	X	
Council President, Maria Kent	X	
Zoning Board - Jared Luciani	X	
Shade Tree - Randy Hinton	X	
Recreation - Karen Murphy	X	
Environmental Protection Committee – Michael Meeker	X	
Flood Advisory Board - Julie Doncoes	X	
Planning Board - Mike Simone	X	
District 1 – Jason Lovasi	X	
District 2 – Michael Fasouletos	X	
District 3 – Mike Riga	X	
District 4 – Tim Troast	X	
District 5 – Lauren Venin		X
District 6 – Lloyd Kent	X	
Secretary – Bernadette Chillemi	X	
Alternates:		

Motion to Approve February 10, 2022:

Motion: Tim Troast
Second: Mike Fasouletos

Open Space Balance - \$499,723¹

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning ahead.

Jennifer Polidori would like the committee to think about some of the projects that should be part of a five year plan. Maria Kent and Jennifer Polidori would like the expansion of Lakeside Park and complete the project in its entirety. The possibility to utilize American Rescue Plan Grant (“ARP”) and what projects can be offset by the ARP. Can a percentage of the next allocation offset some of Hershfield Park costs? i.e. ARP can be used for the bathroom project at Hershfield Park and in turn utilize the County Open Space Grant for something else? Open Space Master Plan is a living document and should be revised to mark off the projects that are finished or projects that no longer exist. The committee should prioritize the projects and complete what is outstanding. Jennifer Polidori advised that all seats on the committee are filled and that the projects require group effort and thinks the committee has done great work.

¹ Balance not accounting \$119,000 grant that will take effect next tax bill and does not account for the promise to allocate \$100,000 to the Willow Field Project

Town Calendar.

The committee discussed revising the write up of the Open Space Committee. Jennifer Polidori suggested that the committee determine how much space we have on the calendar for the Open Space Committee and she would like to capture more of what the committee is involved with currently, i.e. inclusive playgrounds, Lakeside Park Project, Pacifico-Gallo Park Project, etc.

Historic Salem Oak.

Randy Hinton and Jennifer Polidori spoke about the Salem Oak Story, an oak tree located in central New Jersey that is estimated to be between 500-600 years old. Several acorns from the tree were used to make seedlings available throughout the State. The Shade Tree Commission and Council will work together to obtain a sampling and a booklet about the trees and identification of trees planted over the year. The committee discussed where we could plant the tree and who will take care of it while it takes root. Randy Hinton will research a safe place and determine what needs to be done to keep the sampling safe while it takes root/grows.

Morris County Greenway Art Commission.

Morris County Greenway (“Greenway”) has commissioned artists to put together permanent art/sculptures along the Greenway. Jennifer Polidori and Lauren Venin discussed the possibility of the Borough’s participation in the program with Laura Jennings of the Greenway. Jennifer Polidori and Lauren Venin met with Dan O-Rourke of the DPW to discuss building a concrete base for the sculpture. Dan suggested community donations, Tilcon, etc. DPW should be able to install the base. Jennifer Polidori is meeting with Dr. Amoroso to discuss the project and a concept for special needs kids to have some participation in making sculptures. The suggestion was brought up that the sculpture could have the initials “PL” and be installed behind the new dock. Mike Meeker thought it was a good idea but asked if it would be visible enough and also wants to make sure that it is far enough away from the park in hopes to avoid kids wanting to climb and jump on it. We may need to offset any funds if the grant doesn’t cover the total cost. Possibly \$10,000 to \$15,000. Also discussed the Rotary Club or Elks’ support; perhaps include its symbol.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pacifico-Gallo Park Project.

Solid poured rubber surfacing is estimated to be \$260,000, which is out of the budget. Dan sent info on interlocking surface which is a good solve – same dimensions, installation including rental labor and materials \$178,000. A temporary solution would be woodchips. Tim Troast advised that anything laid under the wood chips to avoid weed/grass growth will be hazardous. Maria Kent raised the question of having rubber mats under the swing sets as other playgrounds. Jennifer Polidori advised that there are mats in storage at Lakeside Park.

The vendor provided an estimate of the equipment which was just shy of \$200,000. To reach our targeted budget, we will need to pull one or two of the standalone pieces. We are keeping the large climbing pieces. A revised quote is expected; hoping the freight costs will come down a bit.

Randy Hinton discussed that the dedication stone fell over and should be brought back so that the plaque faces the street. Randy will work with Dan as to the light pole vines and weeds and show him the issues. Maria Kent will discuss priorities with DPW regarding parks. It was discussed that setting expectations from the beginning, will assist Dan in setting realistic expectations of maintenance on projects. Tim Troast commented that the DPW is stretched too thin. Jared Luciani suggested hiring outside help and additional part-time help for the summer months. The DPW is quite busy during the month of July while summer camp is in session and again in September leading up to and during Pompton Day. The need of a more cohesive plan was discussed.

Motion to Open the Meeting for Public Discussion:

Motion: Randy Hinton
Second: Mike Riga

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

It is noted that Eric Schloerb came to observe the meeting.

Randy Hinton made a request to settle with Alan Heimal on the sale of Wilderness Park in order to have one big park. Jennifer Polidori advised that the committee cannot pay more than fair market value for the property. It is alleged that a contractor went on Mr. Heimal's property and removed trees and damaged property without his permission. Jennifer Polidori advised that this alleged act is outside of the scope of the Open Space Committee.

Llyod Kent commented that the big fence at Lakeside Park is an eyesore and that the fence should be removed and a guardrail should be installed. Karen Murphy suggested to repaint the fence in order to maintain the appearance of one consistent piece. There are many iterations of prior to submission to council. Tim Troast advised that to remove the concrete would destabilize the road. Mike Simone commented that fencing cannot be substituted for a guardrail and the bend in the road needs a guardrail. Llyod Kent commented that the guardrail is to be installed in accordance with Department of Transportation's standards, the proper way, with a proper company. It was discussed that the removal of the fence was in the same project. Jennifer Polidori and Maria Kent will review to determine what was approved by Council.

Mike Riga brought attention to the fencing near the water line at the School/Rotary Park. Can the fence be removed yet? He also inquired if Rotary Park anticipates on extending the table area? Karen Murphy asked Jennifer Polidori to reach out to the Rotary Club for comment.

Jennifer Polidori requested the committee think about the interlocking surface and to see if it is worth the expense.

On behalf of the Flood Advisory Board ("FAB"), Julie Doncoes advised that the FAB has received a \$10,000 NJ Sustainable Grant - Habitat Restoration of Riparian Rights for Haroldson Place. It is a volunteer program to coincide with Earth Day. This will be a two part session – planting and weeding. A permit by certification which provides for 2,000 varieties of plants and 3 types of trees. FAB is waiting for the engineer to approve/certify the plan. The anticipated

dates are April 23rd and 24th for weeding and April 30th and May 1st for planting. Jared Luciani will inform the PLRYO of dates and request volunteers. Julie Doncoes advised that most of the weeds are mugwort weeds that grow up to 2.5 feet tall. It is a massive area and will require adults, pitchforks, all hand tools only – 5,000 sq ft.

Environmental Protection Committee - River cleanup is scheduled for May 1st as well.

Motion to Close Public Discussion

Motion: Tim Troast
Second: Jared Luciani

Motion to adjourn meeting:

Motion: Jared Lucianai
Second: Randy Hinton

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Bernadette Chillemi
Bernadette Chillemi, Secretary