

October 20, 2015

The October 20, 2015 meeting of the Mansfield Township Open Space Committee was called to order by Andy Parke at 7:10 p.m. followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Richard Rosenblum, Andy Parke, Carren Thomas, Glenn Todd and Township Committeeman Joseph Watters; Chair James Watters was a late arrival.

#### Correspondence

None.

#### Minutes

MOVED by Ms. Thomas to accept and approve the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. Todd. All in favor.

#### Mt. Bethel Church

- No response yet from the state regarding the status of the non profit.
- Bid packets will go out October 23 for the roof repairs. Bid deadline will be early November, then 10 days later the award will be announced. The architect will oversee all work as well as the inspections. If the kitchen is to be removed, a state inspection will be done first.
- The sign designating the restoration of the church is in the hands of Mr. Parke.
- The tree man plans to resume work in November weather permitting; he will cut and chip.
- The burial site of the slave has been located.
- Ms. Thomas commented how pleasing it is to drive past the cemetery now. The Township will clear the fence row at the cemetery.
- The Mayor was prepared to speak with the Road Department regarding harassment of volunteer workers at the church.
- The Hackettstown Historical Society has donated a roll of paper and its dispenser from Cappy Hill's General Store. This paper was used to wrap purchased goods.

#### Cafferata Park

- Frank Blanche Signs has not yet completed the sign for the park.

#### Karrsville School House

- Two school desks have been donated for use at the school house.
- An open house was discussed; parking is a problem but cones were suggested to designate parking areas; liability was discussed.

#### New Business

Township resident Dick Appleby has approached the Township Committee about buying his property near the post office in Port Murray; he seeks \$120,000 for two or three acres contiguous with Cafferata Park; a caboose on site is not included. Mr. Appleby's reason for the offer is financial; the property has great potential. A suggestion was made to borrow money from the Open Space account if the Township Committee approves. The Township cannot pay more than the appraised value of the property which is \$80,000. Because the property is

encumbered, a possible short sale was discussed. The members of the Open Space Committee are in favor of such a purpose but the Township Committee must make the decision, and it was recommended to send a letter to the Township Clerk urging this purchase at its appraised value be considered.

A brief discussion followed regarding the original building of the Port Murray Dairy. It was closed in 1973, and the building is now in poor condition.

The continuing absence of this Committee's newest member Brad Smith was discussed; the last meeting he attended was May 19, 2015. It was MOVED by Mr. Todd to inform the Township Committee in writing of this shortfall in attendance, suggest that he be removed from the Open Space Committee and be replaced by Matt Wildis; seconded by Mr. Park; all in favor. Mr. Wildis has completed a citizen application which will show his full name and contact information. Mr. Wildis has already contributed his services to the restoration of the Mt. Bethel Church by completing a video recording of the structure that was important in the grant application. He can remain an asset to the work at the church.

MOVED by Ms. Thomas to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante, Clerk

**Next meeting date:  
November 17, 2015**