

December 20, 2016

The December 20, 2016 meeting of the Mansfield Township Open Space Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Andy Parke, followed by a salute to the flag.

Members present: Andy Parke, Matthew Wielgus, Ron Hayes, Carren Thomas, Robert Jewell

Excused: Richard Rosenblum

Absent: Brad Smith

Others in attendance: Joseph Watters, James Watters

Minutes

Clerk Ruth Pante reported an omission in the November minutes, that being the recording of motions of three prior meetings; those motions are:

- MOVED by Mr. Rosenblum to accept and approve the minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Wielgus; Mr. Hayes abstained. All in favor.
- MOVED by Mr. Rosenblum to accept and approve the minutes of the August 16, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Wielgus; Mr. Hayes abstained. All in favor.
- MOVED by Mr. Parke to accept and approve the minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Wielgus; Mr. Hayes abstained. All in favor.

Mr. Parke MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting as corrected, seconded by Mr. Wielgus; Ms. Thomas abstained. All in favor.

A guest speaker for this meeting, the owner of the Beattystown mill, did not attend.

Mt. Bethel Church

The bulldozer operator who donated his time has spread the fill dirt that also was donated. The well pump has been replaced along with a new tank. The wiring has not been installed yet, only the conduit. The architect is expected to supply a site plan so approval for the septic can be sought. Discussing landscaping, blacktop will go all the way around the structure. Donaldson Farms has offered shrubbery, the architect will include shrubs in his drawing. Some money remains available. Thank you notes have been sent to all but the most current donors. The next round of money will go to site work and septic; the water system was \$2,300 and was done by Sentry. The pump has not yet been run.

Next will be the heat. Ninety percent of the mold is gone. A sagging beam in the basement needs replacement.

Ms. Thomas reported Rita and Stephen Love will return to NJ in the spring when a discussion of a possible fund raiser can continue. The Mansfield salt shed has been suggested as a possible site for a concert; a venue should be discussed.

Cafferata Park

When Tim Terry donated and planted trees his one request was for a memorial plaque honoring Wilma Stark; that plaque has not yet been received.

Other Open Space Discussion

It was reported that Dick Appleby has a buyer for his property, the old train station in Port Murray that includes the Post Office. Hicks is believed to be the buyer.

Mr. Hayes explained his background in support of his appointment to this committee. First, he is looking to improve the appearance of the game farm; the Township and the State will discuss their plans. Mr. Hayes suggested a push to get the State to repair. Ms. Thomas asked if Friends Protecting Mansfield's Past could send a letter in support.

The Clerk has sent e-mails to Brad Smith asking his intentions for the Open Space Committee, with no response from him. He has attended only the January, February and March 2016 Open Space Committee meetings. It was MOVED by Mr. Wielgus to send a letter to the Township Clerk, copy to the Township Committee, indicating Mr. Smith's failure to attend meetings and failure to respond to requests for his intentions, seconded by Mr. Jewell; all in favor.

Ms. Thomas MOVED to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante, Clerk

**Next meeting date:
January 17, 2017**