Washington Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
8 April 2025

Attendees: Leon Lakritz, Andrew Gerber, Vicky Binetti, Bob Starrantino, Harry Larzelere

Leon called the meeting to order at 7:11p.m.

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP):

- The CFMP is a five-year plan and was initiated in 2020 and concluded as of December 31, 2024. The Chairman initiated a discussion with members of the Open Space Committee whether to develop a new CFMP. The State currently has two NJUCF Stewardship grants (no deadlines) available to municipalities: $5,000 maximum to a CFMP and $20,000 to conduct a tree inventory including development of a CFMP.
- The committee will continue to consider its options whether to seek another grant to fund an additional CFMP, keeping in mind any relevant requirements. Deadline for submission is December 2025.

Community Garden:

- Community Garden applications are now open; 27 out of 30 plots are assigned.
- The Committee discussed whether to advertise publicly to help fill the remaining plots

Greenhouse:

- Seedlings are now being grown for giveaway events including milkweed and marigolds; flowers are also grown for planting in Washington Lake Park.

Cedar Pond:

- It was noted that the area surrounding Cedar Pond has seen substantial beaver damage since autumn. It is unknown to what extent the damage has continued in the past few weeks but it will continue to be monitored.

Re-Leaf:

- Thorn Property/Grenloch Lake Area: A project to plant trees by Washington Township Rotary at the Thorn Property, adjacent to Grenloch Lake Park, sometime later this spring was discussed.
- Tree Labeling: A project to label trees along walking paths in Washington Lake Park was discussed, which would involve using the information gathered from the Tree Inventory to identify species of interest along walking paths.

Earth Day/Arbor Day Initiatives

- Earth Day and Arbor Day scheduled activities are now underway. Upcoming activities will include:
    - A Milkweed and Marigold giveaway on Sunday, April 27, 9am-Noon in Washington Lake Park, parking lot J.
    - A tree seedling giveaway on Saturday, May 3, 9am-Noon in Washington Lake Park, parking lot J.
    - A bird walk in Washington Lake Park on Saturday, April 26

- Several programs at Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library
  - Month long exhibit about birds including a quiz
  - A program presented by the Woodford Cedar Run Refuge Center
    - Entitled: *Fur, Feathers and Scales*
  - Lecture: Birding Basics

Adjourned at 8:18p.m.