Washington Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
14 January 2025

Attendees: Leon Lakritz, Andrew Gerber, Vicky Binetti, Deborah McGuigan, Harry Larzelere, Bob Starrantino, Jim McCann, Ava Henson, Jack Yerkes

Leon called the meeting to order at 7:08p.m.

Election of 2025 Committee Officers

- A motion was made and seconded to nominate Leon Lakritzas Committee Chair. Following discussion, the nomination was voted upon and Leon Lakritz was elected to the position of Committee Chair by a unanimous vote.
- A motion was made and seconded to nominate Jimmy Perry as Committee Vice Chair. Following discussion, the nomination was voted upon and Jimmy Perry was elected to the position of Committee Vice Chair by a unanimous vote.

Open Space Purchases (from 2024)

- Stoyko – The Open Space Commission was notified that the Stoyko family had made a decision not to sell their property on Hurffville Grenloch Road to the Township.
- Smith – In summer 2024, a resolution was passed to purchase the property on Glassboro-Cross Keys Road. The purchase was consummated.

Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP):

- The Davey Resource Group, arborists, conducted a partial inventory of 1,503 trees in Washington Lake Park (WLP) of the areas most frequented by the public (paved walkways, pavilions, parking areas and the paths along the Dog Park and Cedar Lake). A $15,000 grant, 25% matching ($3,750), was awarded by NJUCF to partially cover the cost to conduct the inventory.
- The report submitted by DRG included: a) data collected on 1,503 trees included their GPS location (indicated on an aerial map), species, pertinent physical information, condition, and suggested maintenance (e.g. pruning and/or removal; b) summary of the inventory findings; c) i-Tree report detailing the ecological benefits derived from the partial inventory tree stand in WLP surveyed.
- The report will be put on the Open Space Committee website and copies furnished to Council members.

Continuing Education

- Continuing education requirements for the CFMP were met in 2024

Community Garden:

- Preliminary plans for the upcoming season were discussed.

Greenhouse:

- Materials and seeds for the upcoming planting season have been ordered.

Cedar Pond:

- The area surrounding Cedar Pond has seen some beaver damage since autumn

Re-Leaf:

- In November 2024, five trees were planted at Margaret E. Heggan Library as part of the Re-Leaf campaign
- Plans for tree planting at the Thorn property at Grenloch Lake as part of the Re-Leaf project were discussed.
- The Old Stone House Village is another proposed location for future Re-Leaf tree planting.

Adjourned at 8:24 p.m.