Washington Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
10 June 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:

- The Community Garden season is underway, with two plots currently available and anticipated to be filled soon.
- The hose recently burst and had to be replaced due to the spigot not being turned off after use. A reminder will be sent to gardeners to help address recurrence of this issue.

Cedar Pond:

- The water level at Cedar Pond still appears to be impacted by beaver damage that has been observed since autumn, with many trees down. The damage will continue to be monitored.
- Damage on the footbridge spanning the spillway was recently repaired

Re-Leaf:

- 40 trees of various species were planted on the Thorn Property (adjacent to Grenloch Lake) as part of a team effort made possible through several generous contributions. 20 of the trees were funded by a donation from Washington Township Rotary, with the remaining trees purchased from the Tree Fund. Alligator watering bags for irrigating the trees were donated by Tom Drissel of Ace Hardware on Greentree Road. Mulch was provided by Jodi Smith of Peach Country Tractor. For the continued maintenance of the area, the Fire Department has agreed to assist with watering the trees this summer. Ideas to add to the area in the future with paths, benches, or other features was discussed.
- Tree Labeling: The plan for 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 and tag species of interest along walking paths.

Adjourned at 8:19 p.m.