Washington Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
9 September 2025

Attendees: Leon Lakritz, Andrew Gerber, Vicky Binetti, Bob Starrantino, Harry Larzelere, Jack Yerkes, Jimmy Perry

Leon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.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 31, 2025.

Community Garden:

- Plans for the Community Garden next season were discussed.

Cedar Pond:

- The water level at Cedar Pond still appears to be impacted by beaver damage, and there is still evidence of beavers present. At the current time, there appears to be less new damage than seen in prior months. However, the damage will continue to be monitored.

Re-Leaf:

- Potential plans for adding and/or replacing trees at the Thorn property (recently planted with 41 trees in spring 2025) were discussed.
- Trees needing replacement at various sites (pollinator garden, Heggan Library) were discussed.
- A resolution was drafted to name this area of the Thorn property Rotary Woods to recognize the past and continuing contributions of the Rotary Club to tree planting in this location
- 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. Potential methods for labeling trees were discussed.
- The committee reassessed distribution of tree seedlings and other seedlings (milkweed, marigolds) at outreach events throughout the year, to consider whether fewer or the same number of plants and trees should be purchased next year.

Upcoming Events

- A guided trail walk led by Mike Hogan in the morning (10am-12pm) on October 25 will focus on the trails in and around Cedar Pond.

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.