

**Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee  
Minutes of January 28, 2020 Meeting**

**Call to Order-** Secretary, Kevin O’Leary, called the reorganization meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. noting that the meeting was open to the public in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

**Roll Call-** Members Present- Alan Henderson, Lisa Carlson, Carl Luthman, Karen Mitchell, Kevin O’Leary, Glenn Thomas

Members absent- None

**Reorganization Open Space Advisory Committee 2020**

- Mr. O’Leary made a motion to nominate Lisa Carlson as Committee Chair, that was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes- Henderson, Luthman, Mitchell, O’Leary, Thomas.

Mrs. Carlson then assumed the duties as Chair for the remainder of the meeting

- Mr. Henderson made a motion to nominate Karen Mitchell as Committee Vice-Chair that was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes- Carlson, Henderson, Luthman, O’Leary, Thomas.
- Ms. Mitchell made a motion to nominate Kevin O’Leary as Committee Secretary that was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes- Carlson, Henderson, Luthman, Mitchell, Thomas.
- Mr. Henderson made a motion to continue to hold monthly meetings in 2020 on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the municipal building meeting room. (2/25; 3/24; 4/28; 5/26; 6/23; 7/28; 8/25; 9/22; 10/27; 11/24; 12/22; with the 2021 reorganization meeting on 1/26/2021 that was seconded Ms. Mitchell. The motion passed with a voice call vote. Ayes- Carlson, Henderson, Luthman, Mitchell, O’Leary, Thomas.
- Mr. O’Leary made a motion to designate the New Jersey Herald and the Sunday Herald as the official newspaper of the Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee for 2020 that was seconded by Ms. Mitchell. The motion passed with a voice call vote. Ayes- Carlson, Henderson, Luthman, Mitchell, O’Leary, Thomas.
- Mr. O’Leary made a motion to publish meeting schedule for 2020 in the designated official newspaper that was seconded by Mr. Henderson. The motion passed with a voice call vote. Ayes- Carlson, Henderson, Luthman, Mitchell, O’Leary, Thomas.

## Regular Monthly Meeting January 2, 2020

**Minutes-** The minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion passed with a voice call vote. Ayes- Carlson, Henderson, Luthman, Mitchell, O'Leary, Thomas.

**Open to Public-** Mrs. Carlson opened the meeting to the public for the evening. No members of the public were present to address the Committee. Therefore, Mrs. Carlson closed the meeting to the public.

**Update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan-** Barbara Davis from The Land Conservancy-NJ was present to go over the draft of the Updated Plan that had been released to the Committee for comment. She explained that two meetings will be necessary at the LUB to introduce the plan and then a second to adopt it as an element of the Lafayette's Master Plan. Once that process is complete an application for Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) status can be submitted to Green Acres. She indicated the application process has been streamlined and that funding is now available annually. She also stated that the update to the plan will be effective for ten years and compliant with the State process.

Mrs. Davis indicated that Linda Glosinski had some comments that were to be incorporated into the draft plan.

Mr. Thomas asked if there were any standards addressing whether a town might actually have enough open space preserved. There was a long discussion about this. Mrs. Davis said there are some standards but The Land Conservancy-NJ is not a proponent of them as each town has unique features and philosophy. She explained that farmland preservation is still very active in Sussex County and the County Plan has prioritized it. The Update to the plan has charts and maps that establish that 22.5% of the land in Lafayette is preserved in some capacity.

There was a discussion of amending the Lafayette Open Space Trust to permit development and more stewardship objectives. She explained that would need to be the subject of a referendum question on a ballot. She noted that an informal survey could test the concept with the residents.

The Committee discussed meeting with Autumn Sylvester of the County who administers the County Open Space and Farmland Preservation programs. Mrs. Carlson said she would contact her to see if they might arrange for her to attend a future OSAC meeting in Lafayette.

Mr. Luthman next went over his suggestions for correction to the draft plan and had questions about certain sections that were discussed with Mrs. Davis. She explained that this version does not include the National Heritage sites in Lafayette like the original plan.

There was a discussion on the farm leases for various properties and the fact that the Lawlor one in particular was not be maintained. Mr. Thomas asked about the farm leases and their

length. It was explained that the most they can be for is five years and that Lafayette has been using a three-year term to ensure that the arrangement with the farmer is working. Mr. Thomas wondered if they could be longer to allow someone to grow something other than corn or other annual crops. He offered an example of someone planting maple trees for harvesting maple syrup. It was discussed that things like this would take a much greater financial commitment and would take much longer for a farmer to reap the benefit of such an investment. Mr. Thomas asked whether there are any other things that aren't currently in the draft plan that should be explored. Mrs. Davis recommended that the committee review the recently completed County Plan.

There was a discussion about when the plan should be presented to the Land Use Board and it was decided that Thursday, March 26 could work for Mrs. Davis. She would be available to answer any concerns that the LUB might have. It was decided that the Plan could then be adopted at the following month Land Use Board meeting scheduled for April 23, 2020. Notice of that meeting would be needed to the public.

**Old Business** – Mr. O'Leary indicated that since the OSAC had not had the opportunity to meet since September that he had submitted the budget to the Township as they were requesting it for the January budget workshop. It was submitted in the same amount as 2019. The contract with The Land Conservancy-NJ had already been signed by the mayor.

**New Business**- None

**Correspondence**- The Land Conservancy- NJ contract.

**Bills**- None

With there being no more business to discuss, Ms. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. Thomas and all in attendance agreed to adjourn following a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin O'Leary