

**Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee
Minutes of May 26, 2020 Meeting**

Call to Order- Chair, Lisa Carlson, called the meeting to order at 7:45 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- Lisa Carlson, Alan Henderson, Carl Luthman, Kevin O’Leary
Members absent- Karen Mitchell, Glenn Thomas

Also, in attendance via cell-phone- Lisa Glosinski- The Land Conservancy of NJ

Minutes- The minutes from the January 28, 2020 regular meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes that was seconded by Mr. Luthman. The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes- Lisa Carlson, Alan Henderson, Carl Luthman, Kevin O’Leary

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

Mrs. Carlson requested an updated report from the Land Conservancy.

The Land Conservancy-NJ Update

Mrs. Glosinski reported that she will check with Barbara Davis as to her availability to appear for a Land Use Board meeting on June 25. Mrs. Glosinski is under the impression that Mrs. Davis was available for a June 18th meeting. Mr. O’Leary raised the issue of Public Notice and reported that he had checked with the LUB attorney, Ursula Leo, on how much advance notice to the public was needed. He reported that Notice must be ten (10) days in advance of the meeting. Mr. O’Leary indicated once the date is set, he will contact the LUB secretary to have the Notice published in the New Jersey Herald. Mr. O’Leary indicated that the meeting would likely have to be conducted virtually. He further reported that he would like to get a copy of the revised Update Open Space and Recreation Plan out to the members of the Land Use Board.

Mrs. Glosinski next discussed the fact that because the Committee is focused on the Update to the Open Space & Recreation Plan, that The Land Conservancy- NJ provided a reduced fee for their general contract that was approved by the Committee this year. The goal for this year will be to move forward with the planning of a trail at the Lawlor preserved tract. She reviewed the history of the application for a trail grant and other options to bring the trail to fruition. Mrs. Glosinski reported that TLC-NJ will have interns available to complete GPS work to define the trail. She indicated that another site visit should be arranged. Mrs. Carlson suggested June 3 or June 10. It was agreed that June 3 would be selected with June 10th serving as a rain date. Mrs. Glosinski believed it should take about an hour or an hour and a half to walk the property.

Mrs. Carlson mentioned that she might be able to facilitate a local boy scouts group to assist with efforts to develop a trail at the Lawlor tract. There is also the ability to contact a potential Eagle Scout to assist as part of his project. Mrs. Carlson also raised the fact that Howard Drake, who lived in town, may be able to assist as he runs the carpentry department at Sussex Tech and his students have helped towns with certain projects.

Old Business – None

New Business-

Mr. Luthman reported that he contacted Mr. Eston Garrison to determine if he had changed his mind regarding potentially preserving his farm. Mr. Luthman had previously checked with this property owner in the past. He has not changed his mind.

Mr. O’Leary raised the issue concerning whether the Lafayette Open Space Trust fund can be used toward any development at the Lawler property. The 2005 referendum question allowed for maintenance of preserved property and there have been some expenditures to repair the barn at the Lawlor property as an example. However, the referendum did not permit use of the funding for development of things such as recreation fields. The original goals of the OSAC was to target the funding for acquisitions of property since Lafayette is a small community and the amount of the local Open Space tax collected does not generate significant income. The thought was that the Lafayette Open Space Trust would need sufficient funds available to leverage Green Acres fifty-fifty matching Planning Incentive Grant funds when properties might become available for preservation projects.

Mr. O’Leary raised the fact that if the Committee wanted to discuss a referendum to adjust the previously passed 2005 referendum to add development of preserved property as a recommendation to the Township Committee it would need to act tonight as time was running out to initiate the process to get a question drafted and placed on the November ballot. An extended discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee should make such a recommendation similar to what other local towns have done and what the County Open Space had recently done.

There was a discussion on whether alterations might be needed to page 4 of the Updated Plan considering the discussion as to whether development of preserved properties was an option. Mr. O’Leary said he would check his files for the referendum question and the Ordinance that created the Lafayette Open Space Trust and would follow-up with Barbara Davis on the issue.

After the referendum discussion was concluded, the four members present agreed to recommend that the Township Committee draft a referendum question for consideration by the Lafayette voters to determine if the residents are interested in adding development as a possible use of the Lafayette Open Space Trust.

Correspondence- None

Bills- None

With there being no more business to discuss, Mr. Henderson made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. O'Leary and all in attendance agreed to adjourn following a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin O'Leary