

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Meeting Notes

May 8th, 2025 – The Stable 7:00PM

PRESENT: Jim Bostler, Matt Lindenberg, Frank Mortimer, Ralph Currey, David Sayles, Kate Frey

Absent: Jim Van Goor, Nancy Bigos, Bob Lasky, Alex Pastore

Summary

The meeting continued to emphasize the importance of solving the key issues on the Schedler development and Green Acres Diversion. The Park Walks continue to be successful and our participation in the Earth Day/Daffodil Festival was also a success. The Tax Referendum next steps remain with the Village Council recommendations.

The meeting notes will remain topical only and will not go into great details about conversations, etc. Also, the notes will stress follow-ups and the appropriate person who is responsible.

Topics and Follow-ups

I. Public Comment

There was no public comment..

II. Approval of February Meeting Notes

The April Meeting Notes were approved.

IV. Liaison Reports

- Village Council
 - Frank Mortimer summarized the Village Council issues as they pertain to the OSC. Most issues will be addressed in the agenda items.
- Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board {PRC}
 - Kate filled in for a vacationing Nancy Bigos and mentioned the success to date for both the PRC and the Fields Committee. The completion of the Pavilion at Habernickle and how to make it available to the public for utilization such as b-day parties, special events, etc., the update of the NY/NJ Trail Conference proposal and the continued increase in the usage of the parks and fields were all included in the briefing.
- Fields Committee
 - With the improvements to Hawes field complete, usage is now in full mode. Personal experience with a walk by showed that the field looks terrific. The new Lights at Vets and increased field usage issues were touched on also.
- Planning Board
 - Planning Board liaison was not present.

V. Open Space Tax Referendum

The consensus of the OSC was to follow the lead of the Village Council. The council will be addressing the issues on May 28th in a work session. After that meeting, the OSC should be able to formulate a plan of action and involvement.

VIII. Potential Event Suggestions/Update

This year's participation at the Earth Day/Daffodil Festival was very successful despite issues with the wind and cold. The map of the village showing the open space was a huge success. Villagers stopped by and commented on how little open space there is currently. Also, we were able to emphasize our accomplishments versus how low the Open Space tax rate is.

Dave Sayles started our Park Walks Program with the Dunham Trail Walk. We had a good attendance and a different audience from last year. Many of the attendees were from the local community and they enjoyed the walk and added insights while learning more about the trail.

Park Stewardships –

Rain gardens – OSC will continue to investigate the potential of this process as it pertains to Open Space.

Habernickel – Volunteers continues to enhance this park. Healthbarn planted a Nut and Fruit Tree section at the park.

Princeton Park Stewardship Example – OSC talked about this program which was forwarded to us by Nancy Bigos. It would be difficult to replicate completely due to the personnel needed and the difference in the towns populations but a smaller version should be investigated.

IX. New Business

A brief discussion centered on the NY/NJ Trail Conference Proposal based on the latest update.

The 4 parks included in this proposal are Habernickel, Grove Park, Kings Pond/Gypsy Pond and Twinney Pond Park. It is a timely proposal given the stage of disrepair in many of our parks.

VI. Schedler Park Property/Update

The email from Carol Bialkowski was read regarding the submission of a revised application to the State Historic Preservation Office. Good news as progress continues at this site.

VII. Town Garage/Discussion/ Update

Progress on this issue will continue to be monitored. The suggestion box at the Earth Day event was not able to be implemented due to the weather conditions.

VI. Green Acres Diversion/2024 Progress/2025 Plan/Frank Mortimer

Paperwork was submitted last month to Trenton ahead of schedule and we will continue to monitor the situation. This could be a big help in securing funds for future projects.

X. Future Meetings

The acquisition list will be updated to include current updated values.

Open Space Trust Fund will be updated and summarized for the OSC.

XII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Open Space Thursday, June 12th, 2025 – Time 7:00 PM – at The Stable

Submitted By: James Bostler – OSC Committee Secretary/Chairman