

HOMER TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PLANNING & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:00 pm July 17, 2019

Homer Township – Administration Building
14350 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491

Draft of Minutes presented to the Committee September 18th 2019
Minutes Approved by Committee September 18th 2019

This meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act

- 1. Call Meeting to Order: 5:00 PM**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was performed.**
- 3. Roll Call: Present Margaret Sabo, Tom Fijan, Supervisor Meyers, Josh Barrett**
- 4. Public Comment:**
 - a. *Jennifer Consolino: Mrs. Consolino asked if contractors have been contacted in regard to the Trantina Community/Event Center. Tom Fijan replied no one has been contacted yet. Pam Meyers added it wasn't contractors they were contacting but rather professional services. She noted, as determined at the last Regular Board Meeting that the Open Space Committee sought the Board's approval to seek out professional services. These services would discuss the possibility of Grant Funding and formulate some ideas for the site. Basic conversations with professional services have been held but no appointments have been set up to date.*
 - b. *Regina Robinson: Mrs. Robinson voiced concern over the Township and spending. She referenced the Farmhouse at Trantina that was not completed and asserted that her husband and Bernie Kucharski had offered to do all the electrical work for free but the Township enlisted assistance from another source. She is concerned that the Township will be spending one hundred thousand dollars on the Trantina Community/Event Center and competing with the private sector for business. She is also concerned about the Knox Boxes talked about at the Regular Town Board Meeting and believes it will be problematic in the future. Supervisor Meyers expressed her confusion regarding where Mrs. Robinson derived the figure of one hundred thousand dollars. She explained that the Trantina Community/ Event Center is exploratory and*

may not even come to pass. She also added that there are other residents who desire a facility/activity center of this type that is large enough to host a variety of activities. Supervisor Meyers added that there was no electrical work done on the Farmhouse. The Farmhouse was evaluated in the hopes of restoring it, but was cost prohibitive. She also added that the Township is required by State Law to have separate funds for taxing. Open Space is not receiving property taxes but is required to be a separate fund. The funds can only be used for Open Space. Thus other topics like senior housing, Parks etc are not relevant when speaking at an Open Space Committee Meeting. The Knox Boxes were addressed at the Regular Board Meeting and are not a part of Open Space. However, the Board at that meeting did approve a meeting with the seniors and the Homer Fire District to talk about the benefits of Knox Boxes. No law exists that requires the seniors to have the Knox Boxes. Dave Bricker of the Homer Township Fire District suggests the use of the Knox Boxes but the seniors must first consent and sign a hold harmless agreement. Tom Fijan added that the house at Trantina was not savable.

- 5. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the June 19th Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes as amended by Supervisor Meyers, second by Josh Barrett. Discussion: Josh Barrett recommends striking the word Board and replacing it with the word Committee in item 15 under insurance. Tom Fijan added a typographical error was corrected from overfill to overflow. Voice Vote- All Yes- Motion Carries.**

6. Reports

- a. **Trantina Farm:** Controlled burn is in process. Notification will be given to neighboring properties and Committee when burn is to begin.
- b. **Granary:** No report
- c. **Community Event Center:** Community Event Center is in the early exploratory stage. Nothing new to report.
- d. **New parking areas, locations, sizes:** No Report
- e. **Grants:** No Report
- f. **Welter Barn:** The stairs do not need to be replaced at this time. Maintenance staff will make further recommendations.
- g. **Rental house:** Basic maintenance and trim work on the windows is in process.
- h. **Smoke house:** No Report
- i. **Chicken house:** No Report
- j. **Metal shed:** No Report
- k. **Purdy Farm:** All leases up to date
- l. **Paul Farm:** All leases up to date

- m. **Welter Farm:** All leases up to date
- n. **Dog Park:** Tom Fijan did research on umbrellas for shade at the Dog Park. He has found one umbrella of interest but more research needs to be completed.
- o. **Fund Raising:** Junque in Yer Trunk flyers, signs and applications have been completed. Margaret Sabo added that she started with local vendors while looking for food trucks. Konow's has agreed to participate. Mrs. Sabo is volunteering to pay the \$65.00 for the permit at Will County. Supervisor Meyers added that permits are usually processed through the administrative office. She noted that a food truck has different requirements than concession areas. In the case of this event, Homer Township will have to apply for a temporary special use permit with Will County. Since food trucks are required to be licensed and are self-contained, they will have already been inspected and a sight visit will not be indicated. The Township will need proof of the Will County Health Department license. If there will be concessionaires/ food vendors that information will need to be included in the Special Event Request to the County. Additional insurance will also be required in order to file for the permit. Margaret Sabo stated advertising is in place through multiple sources. Tom Fijan added there will be no admission charge for people attending the sale. Per Supervisor Meyers, Google maps will be utilized for a site map which is also required for special use permits, measuring out space, and planning the flow of traffic. Supervisor Meyers feels the Barn should be open for the event for public enjoyment, shade, lost and found, emergencies and a place for the public/sellers to obtain information if needed. Flyers and applications have been handed out for distribution.

7. New Business: None

8. Old Business: None

9. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Margaret Sabo at 5:41 PM, Second by Supervisor Meyers. All Yes- Motion Carries.