

**HOMER TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PLANNING & OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 21st 2019

Time: 5:00 P.M.

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

Draft Presented to the Committee September 18th 2019

Minutes approved by Committee September 18th 2019

The Open Space Planning & Operations Committee met at the Homer Township Administration Building. The meeting began at 5:00 P.M. and ended at 5:56 P.M.

This meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act

1. *Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M.*
2. *Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was performed.*
3. *Roll Call: Present-Chairman Tom Fijan, Pam Meyers, Margaret Sabo. Absent- Josh Barrett*
4. *Public Comment:*

A. Jennifer Consulino- Mrs. Consulino asked if a feasibility study has been done for the proposed Event Center and asked where the Event Center would be located. Chairman Fijan stated no feasibility has been done and the location of the Event Center would be at the Trantina Farm but since this is still exploratory an exact location has not been established. Mrs. Consulino asked if consultation for services has been acquired to date. Supervisor Meyers stated a public statement has been placed on the Homer Township website under Open Space in regard to the Event Center. She added that the Committee has reached out to other communities for more information. They have made inquiries to the Fire Department for information on necessary building requirements. The projected size of the establishment is based on the requests/needs of the residents and cost. Discussion by the Committee has been geared with the desire that this should be a self-sustaining entity without a tax. Nothing has been voted on or approved to date and this is exploratory in nature. Mrs. Consulino is concerned that money was allocated for repairs on the Old Town Hall and now questions the need for another building which essentially

could be used in place of the Old Town Hall if completed thus negating the need for the Old Town Hall. Supervisor Meyers answered Open Space has no jurisdiction over the Old Town Hall. The Old Town Hall is a historic structure and if it were demolished it could be quite expensive. It is well equipped to handle small meetings and is utilized frequently. The proposed Event Center would be operated for larger size venues. She added the Committee has looked into energy saving grants with the hope that a potential building could actually assist in being self-sustaining. Events at this Center would not be limited to weddings but could be used for many other purposes including educational, for scouts etc. She explained the purpose of Committee is to do research to ascertain if a project is advisable or not. This Committee is charged with the planning and operation of the Open Space properties and the long term use. The Committees goal is to find Non Tax sources of revenue to keep the properties off the property tax roles. A referendum would be necessary before any new property tax could be added. Supervisor Meyers also added the market for grants is very competitive and the Committee has looked into them as well. Mrs. Consulino stated she is currently applying for certification as a Grant Writer.

5. Approval of Minutes: None

6. Reports:

- a. **Trantina Farm** - Repairs in rental unit completed. Signage issues are being resolved. Supervisor Meyers stated signs are being evaluated for repair/replacement as needed and as budget allows.
- b. **Granary** - No Report
- c. **Community Event Center** – No Report
- d. **New parking areas, locations, sizes** – No Report
- e. **Grants** – Forestry Grant was reviewed, Mr. Fijan believes it would be better served with the Parks & Rec Committee. Supervisor Meyers stated this information was also shared with the Parks & Rec Committee.
- f. **Welter barn** – Stairs were determined as fixable and will be repaired by maintenance.
- g. **Rental house** – Repairs in rental unit completed
- h. **Smoke house** – No Report
- i. **Chicken house** – No Report
- j. **Metal shed** – No Report
- k. **Purdy Farm** – Signage issues are being resolved. Supervisor Meyers stated signs are being evaluated for repair/replacement as needed and as budget allows.
- l. **Paul farm** - Signage issues are being resolved. Supervisor Meyers stated signs are being evaluated for repair/replacement as needed and as budget allows.
- m. **Welter Farm** - Signage issues are being resolved. Supervisor Meyers stated signs are being evaluated for repair/replacement as needed and as budget allows.
- n. **Dog Park** – Trustee Fijan stated he continues to look into umbrellas/shade structures. Supervisor Meyers added she is doing the same. Concern over durability of structure in an open area and cost is a factor. Supervisor Meyers stated she found some interesting structures which she will present to the Committee at the next meeting. Exploring and researching will continue in effort to find the most affordable and durable option available. The Committee stressed the importance of having a structure that is heavy and cannot be moved or stolen.

