Raritan Township Open Space Advisory Committee **Public Meeting Agenda** Wednesday February 8, 2023 5:30 PM, Raritan Township Municipal Building, One Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ

**Open Space Management -** Raritan Valley Community College Center for Environmental Studies (RVCC) tasks under 1 year agreement starting Sept. 1, 2022: 1) conduct biological inventories of meadow habitats and create a meadow management plan for the Township, 2) create standardized trail maps of all properties owned by the Township to facilitate public use, and 3) conduct a town-wide infrared deer population survey.

1. Trail maps – Chris – Trail maps have been prepared for upload to app. Bob King is walking Township Trails and uploading location data to All Trails.

2. Meadow Management - RVCC conducted meadow inventories and made recommendations for maintenance to enhance habitat. Surveys for wildlife utilization will be performed in the spring.

3. Deer Exclosure update – The two deer exclosures previously installed by RVCC and currently maintained by them at Morales Park 1 acre and Walnut Brook Preserve are working well. Noticeable growth in desirable native vegetation has been observed. DPW created a sign to put up at the entrance gate to the Walnut Brook Preserve (Levico) Exclosure for education purposes and to help keep the gates closed.

RVCC will visit the mature forest at northern end of the Neshanic River Eden property with almost no understory to see if fencing might be appropriate there to allow the forest to regenerate. Would likely be good area to engage neighbors which is helpful in reporting breaches. Jay Kelly of RVCC is not sure if they currently have enough interns available to install and maintain another exclosure.

4) Deer Management- RVCC will be performing a deer survey for the township in 2023 after hunting season.

5) Updated Website - Amy communicated with Karen about the need to consolidate the open space page (which is apparently under “committee”) and the parks and recreation page which only mentions a few of our properties. Karen agreed we should have a consolidated page that includes all properties and recreation opportunities together. Amy has some writeups I prepared from doing the Open Space Plan update. Does anyone else want to work on this or should Amy?

6) Open Space Map – Jeff Vacarella is taking over updates of the Township Open Space Map. Karen thanked John Pabish of Davey Resource Group, who previously prepared the map and updates, for all his help over the years.

Open Space Advisory Committee: Committeeman Gary Hazard, Committeeman Bob King, Amy Greene Chair, Harry Quinn Vice-Chair, Joel Throne, James Miller, Ray Simonds, Diane Tracy, Jeff Vacarella Township Planner. Next meeting Wednesday March 8, 2023 5:30 pm

The Open Space Advisory Committee is not subject to OPMA in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8.