

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

Lou Caruso called the January 7, 2026, Open Space Advisory Committee Reorganizational Meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE: Lou Caruso read the statement of public notice.

ROLL CALL: Louis Caruso, Richard Conklin, Gladys Golder, John Lynch, William "Bob" Olivier, Margaret "Peg" Phillips and Stephen Slota

Members Present: Louis Caruso, Richard Conklin, Gladys Golder, William "Bob" Olivier, Margaret "Peg" Phillips, and Stephen Slota

Also Present: Patty DeClesis, Open Space Secretary

Members Absent: John Lynch

Bob Olivier motioned to excuse the absent member. Seconded by Steve Slota. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REORGANIZATION:

1. Reappointments per Township of Green Resolution 2026-19 (attached).
Oath of Office was administered to Margaret "Peg" Phillips and Stephen Slota.
2. Appoint Chairman: Rich Conklin motioned to nominate Lou Caruso as Chairman, seconded by Bob Olivier. No other nominations were made. All were in favor. Motion carried. Oath of Office was administered to Lou Caruso.
3. Appoint Vice Chairperson: Peg Phillips motioned to nominate Rich Conklin as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Steve Slota. No other nominations were made. All were in favor. Motion carried. Oath of Office was administered to Rich Conklin
4. Approval of the following meeting dates for 2026. Peg Phillips motioned to approve the meeting dates for 2026, seconded by Gladys Golder. No discussion. All were in favor.

February 4	June 3
March 4	October 7
April 1	November 4
May 6	December 2
	January 6, 2027

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. No meetings are scheduled for July, August or September.

MINUTES:

1. Approval of meeting minutes regular and executive sessions of December 3, 2025

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes of December 3, 2025, was made by Peg Phillips, seconded by Gladys Golder. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Lou stated that the Land Conservancy of New Jersey sent an email regarding Green Township's Open and Recreation Plan. The current plan was last updated in 2009. To remain eligible for grant funding through Green Acres or farmland program, the State requires that Plans be updated every 10 years. The Land Conservancy's cost to update the Plan would be \$15,000.00 with a \$2,500.00 discount. The Land Conservancy can prepare a more streamlined update for \$5,000.00. and can be included as an Element in the Master Plan. This cost can be paid through the Open Space Trust Fund. After a brief discussion, Rich Conklin motioned to recommend the streamlined update, seconded by Peg Phillips. No further discussion. All Ayes. Motion carried. The recommendation will be made to the Township Committee for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. County Connector Trail Update - Lou Caruso stated that he and the Township Clerk/Administrator will set up a meeting dated with the new property owner.

COMMENTS FROM THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE: Lou stated that the walking path at EverGreen Park has been completed and looks great. A new section was added extending the path past the playground behind the tennis courts leading to the County Connector Trail.

PUBLIC COMMENTS and/or QUESTIONS: No public members were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Peg Phillips motioned to adjourn at 7:29 p.m., seconded by Gladys Golder. No discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patty DeClesis, Secretary
Open Space Advisory Committee

Date Approved: February 4, 2026

**RESOLUTION 2026-19
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF GREEN
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Green in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey that the following appointments as members of the Green Township Open Space Committee commencing January 1, 2026, were made:

Louis Caruso	3-year term expiring December 31, 2027
Gladys Golder	3-year term expiring December 31, 2027
Margaret “Peg” Phillips	1-year term expiring December 31, 2026
John Lynch	3-year term expiring December 31, 2028
Richard Conklin	3-year term expiring December 31, 2027
Stephen Slota (Alternate #1)	2-year term expiring December 31, 2027
William “Bob” Olivier (Alternate #2)	2-year term expiring December 31, 2026

DATED: January 5, 2026

I, Mark Zschack, Township Clerk of the Township of Green, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing resolution to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee at the reorganization meeting held on January 5, 2026.



Mark Zschack, RMC, Township Clerk

cc: Patty DeClesis, Open Space Secretary

Record of Vote:

	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
DeYoung		√	√			
Phillips			√			
Qarmout			√			
Raffay			√			
Rose	√		√			