

# Open Space Committee

## Andover Township

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Andover Township Open Space Committee

Minutes of Meeting May 22, 2007

The meeting came to order at 7:35

In attendance: Chairman, Dan Freed; Members, Lois DeVries, Diane Gillespie, Carladean Kostelnik, Mike Morel, Mary Grace Perruti-Rudolph and Gail Phoebus.

Guests: Sandy Urgo, Morris Land Conservancy and Donna Traylor, Sussex County Open and Farmland Preservation Department

Motion: To approve minutes of April 30, 2007. Made by Gail Phoebus, seconded by Diane Gillespie. Mike Morel abstained. Motion passed with no objections.

Motion to accept Agenda: Made by Gail Phoebus, seconded by Lois DeVries. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

The meeting was opened to the public. No statements from the public were made.

Chairman Freed introduced Donna Traylor who gave us an overview of the Open Space and Farmland Preservation programs administered by Sussex County.

- a. The county passed referendums for two land preservation taxes: the first one at 2 cents/\$100 valuation was allocated at the rate of 90% to preserve farmland and 10% for Open Space; The second tax at 1.5 cents/\$100 valuation were Open Space Competitive funds.
- b. In the Open Space program, the county is party to the contract of deed.
- c. 30% of Sussex County land mass has been preserved through a myriad of Federal, State, County and Local funding.
- d. Glenn Vetrano, Freeholder is the county liaison to the County Open Space Program.
- e. The County Open Space Committee, consisting of members Rich Vohden, Green; Lou Cherepy, Sandyston; Barbara Rosko, Hampton, Will Hookway, Sparta, Craig Williams, Vernon; Dennis Snyder, Wantage and Cliff Lundgren, Hopatcong meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

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Ms. Traylor reported that the county had a substantial planning incentive grant from the State for open space purchases that are available to county municipalities. Land purchases for recreational purposes would probably be given enhanced priority. If there are no applications for these funds, the State may ask to reallocate them to another county or entity. Andover should put in an application ASAP. Ms. Traylor can be reached at 973-579-0500, option #1.

Chairman Freed introduced Sandy Urgo of the Morris Land Conservancy(MLC). She announced that Andover Township had signed an agreement with MLC for "Partners for Green Communities" as advisors to Andover and its Open Space Committee. Ms. Urgo has been designated our open space advisor and as such is separate from MLC's collaboration with us on the Open Space Plan. As our Land Preservation manager she will help:

- a. Find money
- b. Facilitate making of a short list of properties and owners
- c. Help with any grant applications
- d. Affirm viability of proposed purchases to Andover Township Committee
- e. Will write application for purchase grant.
- f. We enable process once grant is awarded
- g. Help to close purchase within a year.

Lois announced receipt of ANJEC grant. It could take up to one month for contract development for township signatures.

Motion: To Allocate \$100 for ANJEC workshop to be held in Andover Township. Made by Gail Phoebus, seconded by Mike Morel. Motion passed unanimously.

CeeCee Pattison, past member of the CADB, was proposed and accepted as an alternate. Chairman Freed noted that Mary Grace needs to be sworn in.

Motion: To enter Executive Session to discuss specific landowners that might be willing sellers. Made by Gail Phoebus; seconded by Lois DeVries. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30

Respectfully submitted,  
Carladean R. Kostelnik, interim recording secretary

Next Meeting, Tuesday June 26 at 7:30pm