

ANDOVER TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Committee Meeting July 24, 2007

The Chairman, Dan Freed, opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Present were members Dan Freed, Lois deVries, Diane Gillespie, Carla Kostelnik, Michael Morel, Cece Pattison (Alternate), Gail Phoebus, Mary Grace Rudolph. Also present: Mary Spector, Secretary.

The Chairman called for the roll call, flag salute and OPMA statement. Dan reported that Sandy Urgo of the Morris Land Conservancy would not be present because she is working on preparation of applications for the County grant. However, he recommended that the Committee go into Executive Session for a discussion on the status of negotiations with property owners.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Gail, seconded by Lois, to go into executive session at 7:43 p.m. The Committee came out of executive session at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes of the June 26, 2007 meeting: A motion was made by Diane, seconded by Lois, to accept the minutes as amended. In favor: Dan Freed, Lois deVries, Diane Gillespie, Carla Kostelnik, Michael Morel, Cece Pattison. Opposed: none. Abstained: Gail Phoebus, Mary Grace Randolph. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda: Lois had several items to add. A motion was made by Gail, seconded by Diane, to adopt the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was opened to the public. There were no public comments. There was discussion about moving to the dais for the next meeting. Dan noted the Committee is making an application to the County for funding for their first project.

Open Space Plan project status: Lois stated the Open Space Plan project kick-off meeting will be this week. She discussed how the volunteer time is calculated. She stated the grant period for the ANJEC grant has already started. She noted the Open Space Committee will meet two times in September. The Open Space Stewardship workshop will be held on the regularly scheduled Environmental Committee meeting the first Thursday in September. Fliers will be circulated for this event and the public will be invited.

There was discussion about pamphlets and books for historic research. Carla and Cece will be doing research at the County Historic Society. Lois mentioned the possibility of starting a Historical Commission in the Township and of possibly suggesting houses for the County Arts and Heritage Historic Homes tour. Lois noted they would reconfirm the time line for the Open Space Plan at the kickoff meeting. Right now, she stated, Andrew would be coming to the Committee's September meeting. At that time they would work as a group to define goals, objectives and criteria for preservation.

Old Business: Dan stated they would hold off on the discussion of the working list of potential property acquisitions until Sandy returns. Discussion continued on the update of Historic Site Listings. Cece asked for a bit more direction on the assignment. Dan noted preservation of historic sites is one of the projects that can be funded. He thought the list Carla had brought in

was a good starting point but it needs updating as things have changed in the Township since it was compiled. There was discussion about Township maps. Lois noted the maps that the Morris Land Conservancy will prepare will be in the municipal building for the public information session and for use by the Open Space Committee. Lois brought up as an example for preservation the old cemetery off of Lawrence Rd. She stated there are very old headstones in that cemetery. She noted it is an historic site and questioned whether it should be preserved and if so in what way and who would be responsible for it. Carla mentioned the old schoolhouse on Rt. 206 that is now for sale. There was further discussion of historic sites in the County.

Dan suggested Cece and Carla do what they can in terms of updating the historic list and bring it back to the Committee. Dan noted the list would be a good resource. Lois suggested they could indicate the sites that are of particular historic interest. Diane noted the Ballantine house dates to the Revolutionary War.

New Business: Gail reported on her discussion with the Chief Financial Officer about accounting procedures. She reported on the amounts being collected by the open space tax and mentioned the possibility of paying for a recording secretary using these funds. In this way the Committee would not have to go to the Township Committee for money from their budget. Lois noted much of these funds have already been spent. The budget process was discussed. Gail noted the Committee had a \$500 budget this year. Cece asked about the agreement with Morris Land Conservancy. Lois and Gail explained there are two separate projects. One contract is for \$10,000; the other is for \$13,000 of which ANJEC is covering \$7,000 with a grant, \$1,000 worth of volunteer work will be donated and the Township will contribute \$6,000.

Gail noted as tax money comes in some will be deposited in the Open Space account. She stated the Finance Office wants the Committee to approve vouchers if they will be spending money. Lois noted the payment to Morris Land Conservancy on the grant project is due. She stated they will expend \$12,000 before any funds are paid out on the ANJEC grant. There was discussion about the need to borrow from the Township and then pay them back when the grant money is received. Carla noted the Township agreed to pay this amount when they passed the resolution to pursue the grant.

Lois brought up the matter of discussing sensitive potential property acquisitions and that some matters can not be discussed when Lois and Gail are present as they are also Land Use Board members. Dan noted some of these matters should only be discussed in executive session because of their sensitive nature. Lois pointed out it is a legal issue. Dan stated he will send out the list of upcoming meetings. He noted meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month and there will be a meeting in August. It was noted it is difficult for people who work out of doors to get to meetings in the summer before 8:00 p.m. Gail reminded the Committee it is important for the agenda to go to the Township Clerk.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. on a motion by Gail, seconded by Lois. All in favor. Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Spector, Recording Secretary