

Minutes of Open Space Committee Meeting
August 28, 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). Absent: Gail Phoebus, Mary Grace Rudolph. Also present: Sandy Urgo, Outreach Consultant, Morris Land Conservancy; Mary Spector, Secretary.

The Chairman called for the roll call, flag salute and OPMA statement.

Executive session: A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Mike, to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss matters of privileged information pertaining to land acquisitions. In favor: Dan, Lois, Diane, Carla, Mike, Cece. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Committee came out of executive session at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes: A motion was made by Diane, seconded by Carla, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2007 meeting as amended. In favor: Dan, Lois, Diane, Carla, Cece. Opposed: None. Abstained: Mike. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda: A suggestion was made to add a discussion of access to Lake Iliff under item #7. A motion was made by Carla, seconded by Diane, to adopt the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public. There was no public in attendance.

County Open Space application: The chairman asked Committee members for their comments on the proposed property acquisition and the recommendation to the Township governing body that they proceed with the property appraisal. Cece stated she has some reservations. She noted the confines of the site in question. She noted the Township has access to Lake Iliff at other locations and she would rather see the funding go to a project such as the rail bed trail. Diane stated she would support the project if the County grants the necessary funding. She asked how much of the Township funds would be used. Sandy stated it would be a bit more than the amount taken in with the open space tax. Diane voiced concern about spending all the funds in this one place because of the limited use of the property affords. However, she noted it could be helpful in getting the trail grant in the future and it is good to protect the property for wildlife habitat.

Carla stated the proximity to the golf course is a positive feature. Sandy noted the acquisition of this property would put the Township in a good position to negotiate with the developer of the golf course property. Mike stated he doubts the Township would do much with this property. He questioned how the public would perceive this purchase. Sandy pointed out the Township is looking at increasing the gravel area near the lake prior to C1 stream regulation changes going into effect. Lois confirmed it is a good

location for the protection of habitat and she sees value in the purchase beyond recreational use. She recommends the purchase if the County approves the grant.

Sandy stated she would like to see the Township proceed with the appraisal. If the county funding doesn't come through the Committee can reconsider what steps to take. She noted it might be possible to bring in gravel even before the property is sold, to create a larger turnaround area by the lake. She reviewed the property cost as proposed in the County application: a total cost of \$101,000 includes \$20,000 in soft costs. The proposed purchase is to be funded with grants of \$51,000 from the County, \$25,000 from Morris Land Conservancy and \$25,000 from the Township. A motion was made by Carla, seconded by Lois, to recommend to the Township Committee that they proceed with the appraisal. In favor: Dan, Lois, Diane, Carla, Mike, Cece. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Open Space Plan project status: Lois reviewed the plans for the Township tour on September 25th, prior to the Public Information session. She stated the Committee will tour with representatives from the Morris Land Conservancy to make note of the location of large areas of open space in the Township. They will set up a car caravan and drive around from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. that day. She noted Andrew Szwack is the Morris Land Conservancy consultant who will be working with them on this project.

Plans for Andover Township Day on September 22 were discussed. Lois noted volunteers will be needed at the table. Dan stated he has a table top display. Gail and Mike will be there. Diane suggested that fliers for the Public Information session on the 25th be available to hand out on Andover Township Day. There was further discussion about outreach to the public for the information session. Lois discussed the draft open space map. She stated it will show parcels, natural features, dedicated open space and vacant land that could be considered for open space preservation.

Historic Site Listing: Carla stated she and Cece spent three hours at the Sussex County Historical Society. Among other things they are trying to figure out who built the stone building at the Abbey. Carla noted the Township was part of Newton at one time and much early history is to be found listed under Newton. Lois recommended they go through the block and lot list to see what is still in existence and what shape it is in.

New Business: Lois reminded Committee members about the joint meeting of the Open Space Committee and the Environmental Commission featuring the Open Space Stewardship workshop on September 6th.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Carla, seconded by Diane, to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Spector, Secretary