

# Open Space Committee

## Andover Township

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July 22, 2008

The Chairman, Dan Freed, opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Present were members Lois deVries, Dan Freed, Diane Gillespie, Carla Kostelnik, Michael Morel; alternate Laura Gilsean, sitting for absent member. Absent: Alex Gilsean, Mary Grace Rudolph. Also present: Sandy Urgo, Outreach Consultant, Morris Land Conservancy; Mary Spector, Secretary.

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

Minutes: A motion was made by Carla, seconded by Diane, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2008 meeting. In favor: Mike, Diane, Lois, Carla, Laura, Dan. Opposed: None. Motion carried. On a motion by Lois, seconded by Mike, the executive session minutes of June 24, 2008 were approved unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda: Diane pointed out that her name had again been omitted from the list of planning report assignments. Dan stated that change will be made to the agenda. A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Diane, to adopt the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Executive session: A motion was made by Carla, seconded by Laura, to go into executive session at 7:38 pm to discuss matters of active and proposed property acquisitions. In favor: Mike, Diane, Lois, Carla, Laura, Dan. Opposed: None. Motion carried. The Committee came out of executive session at 9:25 pm on a motion by Mike, seconded by Laura. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget Report: Dan stated the Open Space Trust budget projects an income of \$123,968 by the end of the year. Expenses to date are \$27,759. He noted the bulk of these expenses is for payments to Morris Land Conservancy (MLC) for the Open Space Plan and consultant fees. He recommended that in the future he will bring the vouchers for payment to the Committee for review and approval.

Green Acres Application: Dan pointed out the application to Green Acres is due by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will be working with MLC to put the application together. They need to decide on a specific project to include in the application. Dan noted it is not necessary to have a contract to purchase for this first-time application. He confirmed the Committee has decided not to apply to the County grant program this year. They will continue to work on the Lake Iliff acquisition that was approved for funding by the County last year.

Planning Area Summary: Mike was prepared to report on the Perona Farms Greenway. He outlined this area on the map, showing how it extends along Newton-Sparta Rd. from the Sparta

line to Limecrest Rd. and down to Rt. 517. He pointed out the many small waterways that drain from the northeastern area down through Hidden Valley Lake to Kittatinny Lake. Mike noted that he is a homeowner in the Hidden Valley Lake section. He stated that future development in this Greenway area of the Township would most likely be on large lots. The Meda Corporation owns a large property. Mike stated in his estimation any property acquisitions for open space would be for passive recreation, for trails for example. He noted the area is rocky, hilly, and with many small streams and waterways, making it difficult for development.

Mike pointed to a 60 ac. lot south of Rt. 517 that has several access points from the county road and also has some frontage on Kilroy Rd. Lois stated the Meda property is beautiful, from an environmental perspective. She noted there is a dam on the property. Lois asked about the unsold lots at Hidden Valley. Mike stated there are six lots that are currently held in a trust for the developer's grandchildren. Mike summarized: the Meda property would be suitable for open space acquisition if nothing gets built there; the piece to the south is a possibility. A few areas around Perona Lake might be possible. He noted nothing else is really conducive to open space.

New Business: Dan discussed the upcoming meeting schedule. The meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> will be held. Dan and Lois will be away for the September meeting. They may need to change the date, depending on what needs to be done for the Green Acres application. A decision will be made at the August meeting.

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

Submitted by Mary Spector, Secretary