

# Open Space Committee

## Andover Township

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August 26, 2008

The Chairman, Dan Freed, opened the meeting at 7:33 pm. Present were members Lois deVries, Dan Freed, Diane Gillespie, Carla Kostelnik; alternate Laura Gilsean. Absent: Alex Gilsean, Michael Morel, Mary Grace Rudolph. Also present: Sandy Uργο, 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 Lois, to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2008 meeting. In favor: Diane, Lois, Carla, Laura, Dan. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Diane, to approve the executive session minutes of the July 22, 2008 meeting. In favor: Diane, Lois, Carla, Laura, Dan. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by Carla, seconded by Laura, to adopt the agenda as presented. 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 Lois, seconded by Carla, to go into executive session at 7:38 pm to discuss matters of active property acquisitions. In favor: Diane, Lois, Carla, Laura, Dan. Opposed: None. Motion carried. Discussion covered the Lake Iliff property which the County has agreed to purchase and other properties for consideration of acquisition as well as recommendations on whether or not to include a possible property acquisition with the Green Acres application. The Committee came out of executive session at 9:22 pm on a motion by Carla, seconded by Lois. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget: Dan stated he had received information on Committee expenditures from the Finance Office. He plans to put this information on a spreadsheet to keep track of expenses.

Property Stewardship Planning: Dan noted the Committee needs to think about maintenance and other tasks at the Lake Iliff property. He cited signage as an example and he stated the Committee should be thinking about their vision for use of the property. Lois noted they need to arrange to remove the structure on the property which will cost money to accomplish. She raised the questions of how much parking should be provided and whether a gate will be furnished at the entrance. She also pointed out the road surface needs work. Carla noted the DEP has not placed restrictions on the use of this property. She thought the property could be mowed this fall.

Open Space Planning Area Reports – Paulinskill Recreation Area: Lois was prepared to give this report. She indicated the area of her investigation on the Greenways Map. She pointed out a recently preserved farm on Warbasse-Junction Rd. and noted there are a number of good-sized farms in that vicinity. She also indicated the deed-restricted farms on Pierce Rd. that were formed out of land owned by Sunnyvale Farms. She noted there are quite a few existing farms in that area. She stated they would make good acquisitions, especially where they back up to the Sussex Branch Trail and in the vicinity of the Hyper-Humus state-owned property.

Lois noted there are two properties for sale on Pierce Rd. One is a deep property that presently has horses on it. The other, just south of the border with Lafayette, is a flat piece of about five acres. Some of it is wet in the spring. Other properties in the area of interest include the former Hovnanian project pieces bordering Lawrence Rd. Lois stated the owner of these properties is not interested in selling at this time. She noted it would be a good site for preservation as the property adjoining in Lafayette is zoned for open space.

Lois discussed the Bodhi monastery. She stated the Township has used some of the monastery's land for recreation purposes. Some is farmed. The school building on the grounds is being used for worship and as a cafeteria. She noted animals included on the federal endangered species list have been seen on the property. Lois stated the land has been developed since the 1960s and is well maintained. She wondered if it might have potential for further recreational use. The land adjoins the Newton Country Club property. The Club has land in standing forest that is not being used. Lois mentioned the potential for a greenway all across this area. There was discussion about the railroad bed that goes from the northern part of the Township to the southern part, through Kittatinny State Park.

Dan thanked Lois for this report. He told the Committee that he and Lois would be away at the time of the September meeting. The Green Acres application should be at the Township Committee for approval at their second September meeting.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Diane, seconded by Lois, to adjourn at 9:55 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Submitted by Mary Spector, Secretary