

Open Space Committee

Andover Township

October 27, 2009

The Chairman, Dan Freed, opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Present were members Ed Burgio (who arrived just following roll call), Dan Freed, Diane Gillespie, Gerry Huelbig, and alternate Laura Gilsean. Absent were Carla Kostelnik, Michael Lensak, and Mary Grace Rudolph. Also present were Sandy Urgo of The Land Conservancy and Angela Thies, committee secretary.

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

Adoption of Minutes from September 22, 2009: A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Ed to accept the minutes of Sept. 22, 2009. All in favor, motion carried.

Adoption of Agenda: The chairman amended the agenda to include an introduction of new Open Space Committee member Gerry Huelbig and the resignation of Lois DeVries, between items 5 and 6. A motion was made by Ed to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Laura, all in favor, motion carried.

Welcome: The chairman welcomed Gerry Huelbig as the committee's newest appointment. Gerry replaces former member Lois DeVries, who resigned effective Oct. 26, 2009. Dan explained that Lois resigned from the Township's planning board, and so her appointment to the OSC as that department's liaison was terminated. Dan said he would provide Gerry with a copy of the OSC plan.

Executive Session: The group entered into Executive Session at 7:39 p.m. on a motion from Diane, seconded by Ed, all in favor, and so moved. During executive session, Sandy Urgo discussed matters of prospective property acquisitions with the committee – those already on the table and a couple of opportunities the group may want to revisit. The need to do a better job at keeping executive session matters confidential was discussed.

Ed Burgio excused himself from the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Sandy excused herself at 8:43 p.m., at which time the committee came out of executive session on a motion by Laura, seconded by Gerry, all in favor and so moved.

Open Meeting: There were no members of the public in attendance.

Confidentiality vs. Dissemination of Information: The topic of what information should be shared with the public, discussion initiated in executive session, resumed in general session as Laura questioned the appropriateness of information shared in the mayor's monthly newsletter. Some items shared seemed premature to have been made public. Laura also mentioned, with regard to recent information shared in the newspaper about a possible land acquisition by the Open Space Committee, that probate information is open to the public and could have been a

source for “leaking” of information to the press. Diane commented that, as a committee we pay the Land Conservancy a substantial sum of money to work on our behalf, yet between the township officials and committee members, we seem to wind up sabotaging that work ourselves.

Adjournment: A motion was made at 8:45 p.m. by Diane to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gerry, with all in favor and so carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Angela Thies, Secretary