

Andover Township
Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2010

Chairperson Carla Kostelnik opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The Chair called for the flag salute, roll call, and read aloud the OPMA statement.

Present were OSC members, Debbie Danielson, Diane Gillespie, Marc Gore, Carla Kostelnik, and alternates Laura Gilsonan and Karl Krummel. Also present was Angela Thies, OSC secretary. Absent were Ed Burgio, Christine Kretzmer, and Michael Lensak.

The first order of business was to swear in Marc Gore as Open Space Committee member. This was Marc's first meeting after his having been appointed in 2010.

Approval of March 23 Minutes: Because there was an insufficient number of committee members present from last month's meeting to approve the minutes of that meeting, approval will be sought at the next scheduled [May 25] meeting.

Adoption of Agenda: A motion was made by Debbie Danielson to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Diane Gillespie, all in favor, motion carried.

Open to the Public: The chair opened the meeting to the public. There was one member of the public in attendance, Dan Freed.

Chair Kostelnik addressed the committee and the public with a review of the Open Space Plan, including its purpose and the guidelines put in place to help the Open Space Committee fulfill its purpose. Namely, the committee serves as an advisory panel charged with the duty of reviewing property opportunities for open space and/or recreation and then making recommendations to the Township Committee as to which acquisitions would most benefit the township. Carla noted that both the state and the county are more likely to award funds for recreational purposes than for preservation.

Carla highlighted the 2010 objectives of the Open Space Plan, calling out those goals not yet reached by the OSC, including in particular:

- meeting with the NJDEP Division of Parks & Forestry to discuss preservation goals
- meeting with adjacent municipalities to discuss what they are doing in terms of Open Space

Diane expressed concern that the OSC seems to consistently overlap responsibilities with the township's Recreation Committee and suggested a subcommittee be established comprising members from both committees. All present agreed that a subcommittee might prove beneficial.

Discussion then ensued over the protocol used in our function as an advisory committee – specifically the rules governing what information is shared and what is to be kept confidential. In particular, what information shared in OS executive session should be shared with the township committee. There was concern that the township committee’s agenda for their most recent meeting made public [in their exec session agenda item] confidential OSC information – information the Open Space Committee was admonished the meeting before should absolutely remain confidential. Chair Kostelnik noted that Michael Lensak’s presence would have been beneficial at tonight’s meeting, for the purpose of this discussion, in that Michael is the OSC liaison to the township committee. Discussion included how much and in what manner confidential information should be shared with the township committee in the future. It was agreed that the OS committee should determine exactly what can be shared, and it should be further discussed just how the information should be disseminated – through discussion with Michael Lensak as liaison, or more formally in written memo form. Committee members agreed that the township mayor should be copied on future General Session minutes.

Executive Session: Laura Gilsonan motioned to enter into executive session at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Karl Krummel, all in favor and so moved. The sole member of the public excused himself. Executive session was entered into for the purpose of discussing land acquisition opportunities.

The committee came out of executive session at 8:53 p.m. on a motion from Debbie Danielson, seconded by Diane Gillespie, and approved by all.

New Business: A motion was made to send a memo to the township committee requesting three items discussed in executive session.

Adjournment: Diane Gillespie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Laura Gilsonan, and unanimously agreed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Thies
Secretary, Open Space Committee

