

Andover Township
Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2010

Chairperson Carla Kostelnik opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

The Chair led the flag salute, read aloud the OPMA statement, and the secretary conducted roll call.

Present were OSC members Ed Burgio*, Diane Gillespie, Carla Kostelnik, Christine Kretzmer, Mike Lensak, and Alternate Laura Gilsenan. Marc Gore arrived late. Also present was Angela Thies, OSC secretary. Absent were Debbie Danielson** and alternate Karl Krummel.

**Ed Burgio left after attendance was taken in order to attend the recreation committee meeting, occurring simultaneously in another room; he rejoined the OSC at 8:20 p.m.*

***Debbie Danielson had another commitment and arrived just prior to adjournment of the meeting.*

Approval of the Minutes of September 28, 2010: It was noted that Debbie Danielson was inadvertently omitted from the attendance record of the Sept. 28 minutes and that Diane Gillespie had been accounted for twice. Also, in the “homework” assigned to members, it was noted that Marc Gore also was to have approached Hope Bank to solicit volunteers for invasive species cleanup.

Diane Gillespie motioned to approve the minutes of September as amended, seconded by Christine Kretzmer, approved by all except Laura Gilsenan and Mike Lensak who abstained; so moved.

Adoption of October 26, 2010 Agenda: Township Liaison Mike Lensak, at the behest of the Township Committee, requested a number of topics be added to the agenda, as follows: Open Space grants release; Contact the Audubon Society regarding bird inventory; Develop protocol for water testing of Green Acres properties; Develop past, present and future narrative changes in plans for Lake Iliff Access for future reference; Letters to vacant land owners; and Scotto farm preservation, Nov. 6. A motion was made by Diane Gillespie to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Laura Gilsenan, all in favor, motion carried.

Open to the Public: The chair opened the meeting to the public. Andover Township Committee Member Gail Phoebus was present.

Releasing Open Space Grant for Paulinskill: OSC members agreed that Andover Township should tell the State it has no use for the [Paulinskill] grant at the present time. If an opportunity presents itself in the future, the Township can reapply.

Scotto Property – Gail Phoebus initiated discussion on Andover Township’s current involvement in a public comment period (which ends Nov. 4) relative to the Scotto/Miller Sheep Ranch property. Apparently, the county was reprimanded by the State because the owner of the Scotto/Miller Sheep Ranch property does not want to sell any portion of his property into preservation, but it appeared as though the County and Andover Twp have been moving forward as if it might be a possibility. The NJ State Agricultural Committee asked for this matter to be put on Andover Township’s meeting agenda.

Discussion ensued and statements were made as follows: It was the recollection of OSC Chair Kostelnik that the OS board had nothing to do with the State’s decision to pursue development rights on the Scotto’s industrially zoned parcel. The OSC merely stated in writing in an earlier letter to the County that it would *not object* to the county using grant monies [previously intended for another use and as such already set aside] to pursue purchase of a portion of the Scotto parcel, another portion of which the State might consider for preservation. Committeewoman Phoebus confirmed that while Hudson Gill/Byram objected to a deal in an effort to keep/support funding for OS preservation, Andover Township did not object to the county preserving the MSR property.

Chair Kostelnik commented that it was common knowledge within the OSC and the Township that the State and County both regarded the Scotto property as good for preservation. The State contacted Mr. Scotto about a purchase price, but Mr. Scotto said he has no intention of selling his land into preservation; further, he said he was never notified about such a proposition. Mr. Scotto is annoyed that the matter progressed to the point it did.

Historic Site Signage: Chair Kostelnik recently was made aware that the county provides historic signage; she said she will contact Wayne McCabe to discuss Andover’s needs.

Lake Iliff Access / Water Test Results: Committeewoman Phoebus contributed to a discussion about the negative results received from testing conducted on property including and neighboring Andover’s Long Pond School. Township Committeewoman Phoebus requested that the school and surrounding properties be tested for contaminants, because she was concerned about the high level of bleaches used in the gray water being discharged from the school’s sewer treatment plant. The matter of contamination came about as a result of the school’s request for Township funds to cover fines assessed by the NJ DEP. The test results showed a level of fecal coli three times the acceptable limit. Carla said that heavy rains and a heavy wildlife population likely contributed to the high levels recorded. It was explained that the

school's sewer treatment plant, which comprises an above-ground discharge system, empties into the neighboring wetlands. The plant's gray water currently discharges through a reed bed and then dissipates. Mike Lensak confirmed that several discussions over the plant have taken place between the school's administration and the township over time, and recently the school has agreed to upgrade its plant to employ a new ultraviolet light system.

It was suggested that the township's environmental committee recommend that protocols for water testing be established. Carla suggested that the township test all of its parks' watersheds for fecal coliform, since the township's ballparks often flood and could become a breeding ground for such matter.

Update on Lake Iliff Access Park: The county health department was set to close the Lake Iliff Access Park due to the negative water test results, but the access park area was to have closed for the winter season anyway on November 1; it is scheduled to reopen in the spring.

Birdhouses: If the OSC is considering promoting the Lake Iliff Access area as a bird sanctuary, Carla suggested the committee take advantage of the Audubon Society's practice of conducting surveys of birds in their natural habitat and then providing birdhouses for those species.

Signage: Diane Gillespie reported on her research of signage for the property; the following pertains to a large display stand to encase information about the site:
Jumbo Horizontal Message Center, consisting of 100% recycled plastic frame, with acrylic glass window and lock. Guaranteed 25 yrs. 79" wide, 8" deep, 52" high. Price: \$1,185 - \$1,405. Upgrade from cork backing to rubber, extra \$125.

Possible Eagle Scout projects: Ed Burgio reported that he reached out to the Boy Scouts in an effort to solicit help from them to construct benches and possibly a new entrance gate for the Lake Iliff site, but he has not heard back.

Possible New Grant Opportunity: Christine Kretzmer mentioned that the NJDOT recently approved the release of grant monies to be used for boardwalks and walkways, which Chair Kostelnik suggested could be considered for the construction of a boardwalk to connect the Lake Iliff property to the neighboring school grounds. Christine and Ed Burgio will look further into said grant opportunities.

Removal of Invasive Species: Marc Gore reached out to Brownie Troop leaders to invite the Brownies to assist with the removal of invasive species (e.g., loosestrife) at Lake Iliff as a possible badge-earning project, but after discussion it was determined the girls would be too

young to assist with that chore. Marc said he would speak to Girl Scout leaders Mrs. Lensak and Mrs. Whittaker to see if it might be something appropriate for the older girls. Marc also reached out to Deena at Hope Bank, but has no commitment from their folks as yet.

Police To Contact Lake Iliff Neighbors: As Township Committee liaison to the Township Police Dept., Mike Lensak agreed to contact the police department to request they inform Lake Iliff neighbors that the site is now Green Acres property and as such falls under certain restrictions (namely, no motorized vehicles or equipment are permitted on the property).

SLAP: It was suggested that the OSC contact the Sheriff's Office to see if SLAP might be able to assist with cleanup of the Lake Iliff site. Secretary Angela Thies offered to contact the Sheriff's Office to find out more about the program and if the OSC could make use of the service.

Executive Session: Marc Gore motioned to enter into executive session at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Dianne Gillespie, approved by all and so moved. Gail Phoebus, as sole member of the public in attendance, excused herself from the room. Executive Session was entered for the purpose of discussing land contracts and the role of Township Liaison to the Open Space Committee.

Ed Burgio made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:03 p.m., seconded by Christine Kretzmer, approved by all and so moved.

New Business: The group was reminded that the next meeting would be moved to the fifth Tuesday of November (Nov. 30). Mike noted he would be unable to attend that night.

Old Business: None.

Adjournment: Ed Burgio motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m., seconded by Dianne Gillespie, with all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Angela Thies
Secretary, Open Space Committee*