

**OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MTG
5 JULY 2005 6:30 PM HOPATCONG MUNICIPAL BLDG**

At 8 PM the Open Space/Recreation Committee was followed by a presentation of the Borough's GIS project by Dave Kunz, Sussex County GIS Director. The Open Space/Recreation Committee stayed for the presentation.

1 OPENING OF SPECIAL MEETING: OPEN PUBLIC MTG ACT, NJUFC ANNOUNCEMENT; ROLL CALL, ANNOUNCE QUORUM

Chairperson Jones announced that the purpose for which the meeting was called was to consider two items: one) splitting the \$100,000 set aside for the three fields on top of the hill into two halves, half for the original project, and the other half, \$50,000, for the low level lighting project also on top of the hill

two) review a draft report of the activities of the Open Space/Recreation Committee since its inception.

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM in the Municipal Building. by Chairperson Susan Jones.

The members and the public were informed that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-1 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald/New Jersey Sunday Herald, the Daily Record, The Star-Ledger, and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for Public announcements.

In accordance with NJUFC, it was indicated that there are two fire exits from the meeting room, one in the rear of the room (the door through which all entered) and the other in the outside wall adjacent to Hopatchung Road, that should be utilized in case of emergency. The third door which is immediately to the right of the dais as the audience faces the dais is not an exit door.

A roll call showed the following members of the Open Space/Recreation Committee in attendance: Richard Hodson, Susan Jones, Clifford Lundin, Joan Reilly and Elide Young. Elizabeth Mauro and Sylvia Petillo were absent. A quorum was present.

2. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING:

On motion of Reilly and Young and the affirmative votes of all Richard Hodson was appointed acting secretary for the meeting.

3. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE A moment of silent reflection and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chairperson Jones.

4. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. No one in the audience chose to speak.

5. BUSINESS: ITEM 1: splitting the \$100,000 set aside for the three fields on top of the hill into two halves, half for the original project, and the other half, \$50,000, for the low level lighting project also on top of the hill. The Committee discussed reducing the previous allocation of \$100,000, and using the \$50,000 to expedite completion of the low level lighting project. Once the additional \$50,000 is authorized, the Mayor and Council can proceed to bid the lighting of a second field. On motion of Reilly and Young, and the affirmative vote of all, the reallocation of the \$50,000 was approved. Item 2: DRAFT REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2000. A draft of the first half of the report was discussed. It had been e-mailed to the Committee previously. Mayor Hodson indicated the nature of the second half. Former Mayor Lundin described a greenway across a substantial portion of the Borough, and progress in establishing it. It is expected that starting at Hudson Farm, some 600 acres owned by Peter Kellogg will be preserved. A 204 acre parcel behind Firehouse Number 2 has also been acquired by Mr. Kellogg. The Borough has enquired about acquiring the lot, but it was cost prohibitive. Green Acres had discussions with the

owners but similarly terminated them. Mr. Kellogg also acquired the former Scout Camp. In 1997 the Borough established a Nature Preserve using many of the 400 and 700 tax lots. Starting in 2000, the Borough undertook a very aggressive tax foreclosure program acting on some 600 lots throughout the Borough. This has added significantly to the preserved land in the Borough. The Borough is entirely within the Highlands Region. All of the Borough west of Stanhope-Sparta Rd, part of Hudson Farm, and some land owned by Weldon Minerals, LLC are within the Highlands Preserved Area. There is substantial acreage which has been preserved without going through purchase acquisition. Funds within the Open Space Trust Fund have not been used for studies or legal fees. The Borough attempted to acquire portions of the former CYO camp through tax sale, but the property was subsequently redeemed.

8. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS: The meeting was opened to the public by Chairperson Jones. No one desired to speak.

9. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:44 PM on motion of Young and Reilly and the affirmative votes of all, the meeting was adjourned.