

**OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
7 SEPTEMBER 2006, HOPATCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting was opened at 7:43 PM in the Municipal Building. by Chairperson Elide Young. The Open Public Act meeting statement was given. The meeting was tape-recorded for the purpose of constructing minutes. The chairperson indicated the main topic of discussion at the meeting was Trails Plan implementation. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Richard Hodson, Susan Jones, Clifford Lundin, Elizabeth Mauro, Joan Reilly, and Elide Young. Absent was Sylvia Petillo. A quorum was present.

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

1. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: A moment of silent reflection was observed, followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Chairperson Young.

2. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. No one desired to speak.

3. MINUTES OF 25 JULY 2006 MEETING: On motion of Reilly and Jones, and the affirmative votes of all, the minutes of the 25 July meeting were approved.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

It was announced that the lighting of the fields on top of the hill behind the Civic Center has been complete for some months. Starting Tuesday evening, 12 September, the Warriors football program will begin practice on those fields, as was considered at the time funds toward the lighting was authorized.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. FREEDOM TREE AREA: A request was presented by Mayor Hodson to recommend funding for development in Freedom Tree Park. An ornate wall with the word FREEDOM in it is proposed for that area. The wall would be curved and approximately 40 feet long. It would start at approximately two feet in height, rise gradually to four feet, and decrease gradually to approximately two feet. In its center in ten inch letters in stone would be the word FREEDOM. Lights would be installed to shine on the wall to illuminate the word. There would be additional ground lights

aimed into the tree. Discussion followed in which there was some concern about the appropriateness of funding the project with Open Space funds, or about considering the project later. It was indicated that the Committee has authorized similar funding in the past. On motion of Jones and second by Mauro, and the affirmative votes of : Richard Hodson, Susan Jones, Clifford Lundin, Elizabeth Mauro, and Elide Young, and negative vote of Joan Reilly, \$12,000 of Open Space Trust funds were authorized to be spent toward this project.

b. **TRAILS PLAN COMMITTEE:** The number of members of the Trails Plan Implementation Committee was discussed. The number ten seemed functional. Suggestions were made for about 13 members with the idea being that some memberships might not be filled, and the final group would be less than 13. The Committee would be expected to provide a report to the Open Space Committee within sixty days of its formation. The Committee would select its chairperson. Members are: Malcolm Piester, Sharon Gruber, Dave Barnish, another member from the Boy Scouts, two members from the Girl Scout organization, Cliff Lundin, Elide Young, Joan Reilly, Marlene Colabella or other member of the Woman's Club, someone from Hopatcong Seniors or the Golden Lunch Bunch, a representative of the School athletic program, and Tim Carey. The charge to the Committee is the general implementation of the Trails Plan. There was discussion as to where that implementation might start, but it was left to the Committee to decide. The above constraints and Committee membership was moved by Jones, seconded by Reilly, and approved by the affirmative votes of all.

c. **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION: WALKWAY SITES:** At the 25 July meeting the Open Space Committee voted to proceed with walkways in Modick Park/Maxim Glen and at Veterans Field. Based upon an estimate from Ron Jobeless, on motion of Jones and seconded by Reilly, and the affirmative votes of all, a sum of \$25,000 was authorized toward additional walkways in those parks, primarily around Modick Park. Additional walkways in Maxim Glen would detract from its beauty. Stubs to connect Modick Park with Maxim Glen would be included.

Walkways at Veterans Field were discussed. It was indicated that construction there would probably result in the walkway along the easterly side being the sidewalk along Flora Avenue. The future potential of extending the walkway up toward Durban Avenue School was discussed. A rough cost estimate of \$100,000 was given for a walkway along three sides of Veterans' Field. The Open Space Committee members were asked to visit the site that action might be taken at the next meeting.

Acquisition of land toward the Greenbelt and walkways was discussed. Assuming \$100,000 were expended for a walkway at Veterans Field, approximately \$80,000 of the funds accumulated through 2005 would be available for acquisitions. These funds might be pooled with funds from outside sources. On motion of Jones and seconded by Reilly, and the affirmative votes of all, Cliff Lundin was authorized to approach Moses Marx about possible acquisition of his properties. The Committee is not authorized to enter into contracts for land purchase, but it can recommend agreements to the mayor and council.

e. OFF ROAD VEHICLES: In the action portion of the Trails Plan, there is a recommendation that an ordinance be adopted to limit the use of Off Road Vehicles. Copies of some sample ordinances were distributed. Copies had already been distributed to Sharon Gruber of the Environmental Commission. Various restrictions were discussed. No action was taken at this meeting.

f. ADOPTION AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRAILS PLAN: On motion of Mauro and seconded by Reilly, and the affirmative votes of all, the Open Space Committee endorsed the Trails Plan, and recommends to the Planning Board that the Trails Plan be adopted by the Planning Board as part of the Master Plan.

6. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS: No one desired to speak.

7. ADJOURNMENT: At 9:00 PM on motion of Reilly and Jones, and the affirmative votes of all, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Open Space/Recreation Committee will be 7:30 PM Thursday, 2 November 2006