

**HOPATCONG JOINT MEETING:
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION/OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
JULY 26, 2006**

This is a joint meeting of the Hopatcong Environmental Commission and Open Space Committee. The meeting was opened by Mary Takacs at 7:38 p.m. with a statement that this meeting is held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq., annual notice having been forwarded to The New Jersey Herald, The Sunday Herald and The Daily Record and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Bernice Gleason
Pat Gleason
Sharon Gruber
Malcolm Piester
Mary Takacs
ABSENT: Sam Hoagland
Elizabeth Mauro

Mary Takacs announced that the purpose of this joint meeting is to discuss the final version of the Trails Plan for the Borough of Hopatcong. Mary welcomed the Open Space Committee to the meeting.

Mayor Richard Hodson announced the members of the Open Space Committee:
Present: Richard Hodson, Susan Jones, Sylvia Petillo & Joan Reilly **Absent:** Elide Young, Cliff Lundin & Elizabeth Mauro.

Mary Takacs led the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 1, 2006 MINUTES

Pat Gleason made a motion to approve the June 1, 2006 minutes. Sharon Gruber seconded the motion and all were in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 28, 2006 MINUTES

Malcolm Piester made a motion to approve the June 28, 2006 minutes. Sharon Gruber seconded the motion and all were in favor.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mary Takacs announced that there were four HAZMAT reports.

Jefferson Township Environmental Commission sent a letter to our commission regarding the Lake Hopatcong and Rivers. They would like a resolution made to have the fishing lines removed from the lake and river edges by the fishermen that leave their fishing lines inter-twined with our fish and human population.

The three Prestigious Tree Contest winners will be presented with a certificate at the August 2, 2006 Council Meeting to received their money for their participation in the contest.

Malcolm Piester made a motion to cancel the August 23, 2006 Environmental Commission Meeting. Pat Gleason seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sharon Gruber is questioning what the roll is for the Environmental Commission in the Lake Commission. Mayor Hodson discussed and informed the Commission of what is happening and what is being done to the lake. The Commission was funded and told to buy equipment. A harvester and a boat were purchased so far. There was a continued discussion on the funds and a way to let people know when there's an emergency situation on the lake. Mayor Hodson mentioned using electronic signs.

Mayor Hodson reminded the Commission that the reason for the meeting this evening is to discuss the Trails Plan.

The public is asking if the Governor has ever been invited to see Lake Hopatcong and show him the problems. Mayor Hodson said that the Governor and the current Commissioner of the Environmental Protection has been invited to the lake and has been part of a boat ride for review. The Mayor advised the Commission of the water level.

TRAILS PLAN

Mayor Hodson said that he could distribute the CD of the Trails Plan but can only loan out the hard copy of the Plan for the duration of the meeting. The Mayor discussed the completed Trails Plan with the Environmental Commission and the Open Space Committee and the public shared their comments. Both groups might consider endorsing the off-road vehicle ordinance to the Governing Body at a later meeting.

Susan Jones said that one of the action plans is to appoint a Trails Committee and to set goals for this committee. Sharon Gruber discussed the possibility of distributing the map that's included in the Trails Plan. Joan Reilly commented that there are pathways and walks in Modick Park and Maxim Glen and is suggesting building up around Veteran's Field. Mayor Hodson suggested finishing the walkway in Modick Park, but his main concern is that people see a result of this Plan.

Mayor Hodson mentioned that the seniors started a walking club.

Joan Reilly made a motion to establish a pathway at Veteran's Field. Sylvia seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mayor Hodson would like to suggest something involving Modick Park and Maxim Glen getting done.

Sylvia Petillo made a motion to start work on Modick Park and Maxim Glen. Susan Jones seconded the motion and all were in favor.

There was a discussion regarding a Trails Committee. Mayor Hodson said that appointing a Trails Committee would be discussed at another meeting.

Sharon Gruber made a motion to allocate up to \$200.00 for distribution of the trail maps from the Trails Plan and accompanying action programs and recommendations for appropriate sites within the Borough. Bernice Gleason seconded the motion.

YES: B. Gleason, P. Gleason, S. Gruber, M. Takacs. **NO:** M. Piester

ADJOURN

Sharon Gruber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Bernice Gleason seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Submitted by,

Marie Filoso
Recording Secretary