

**HOPATCONG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION/OPEN SPACE
OCTOBER 6, 2005**

The meeting of the Hopatcong Environmental Commission/Open Space Committee was opened by Cliff Lundin at 7:40 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
 Connie Janowski
 Marty Janowski
 Elizabeth Mauro
 Mary Takacs
ABSENT: Sam Hoagland
 Mercedes Walker
ALTERNATE:
 Malcolm Piester

Also in attendance:
Councilwoman, Madeline McManus
Councilwoman, Sylvia Petillo
Cliff Lundin, Acting Chair for Open Space

Cliff Lundin led the Salute to the Flag.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Cliff Lundin announced that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to meet with Desiree Dunn of the Morris Land Conservancy and go over their progress to date and then to start talking about where we want to see the Trails Master Plan go. Cliff gave the floor to Desiree Dunn.

Desiree announced that she is very pleased to be at tonight's meeting and to discuss the goals this evening. The Morris Land Conservancy drafted some trails which highlights all of the trails that they know on record through the town which includes the Highlands Trail and several of the trails Mr. Piester pointed out. There is some work to be done on an old trail that was sketched out in 1929. Desiree said that in writing the text of the trails plan, it should be discussed how to put into text The Vision Statement, and the purpose of having trails in Hopatcong, and the way to do so is to ask the opinions of the board and committee members.

Cliff Lundin stated that there should be a verity of trails and that all trails should be serviced and accessible. There should be by-trails and walking trails and connectivity

between areas of the town and to promote access to the Lake and to be able to get to all the people of the borough if possible and appeal to all the different types of the population which includes biking, walking and running, and to do this with feasible funding.

Elide Young agrees with Cliff Lundin. Elizabeth Mauro stated that she would like to see something for toddlers and younger children, easy trails to introduce them to nature.

Madeline McManus said that she thought it would be excellent to have some kind of a resource and markings on the trails to teach and identify.

Connie Janowski mentioned some kind of history for the kids to read in the library.

Desiree Dunn said that the connectivity of trails should be regional.

Mr. Gleason said that he would like to see the trails made wheelchair accessible and maybe have some benches on the way.

Sylvia Petillo asked Desiree about exercise parks in some communities. Desiree said that there is special equipment for that purpose. Sylvia also mentioned that she has seen benches that are dedicated in memory of someone. Desiree said that this can be put into a plan and on the maps. Sylvia is interested in knowing if some trails are going to be paved and what about grass trails. Desiree said that the option is up to the town.

Desiree asked if the first phase of trails should be the Veteran's Field Development. Cliff Lundin and others agreed as this might be the priority.

Mary Takacs said that she would like to see signs on the trails.

Desiree said that we should have another workshop with the possible date being December 1, 2005 for the first public workshop. The final draft will be presented on February 5, 2006 and to finish the plan for this project should be March 30, 2006.

ADJOURN

Elizabeth Mauro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Elide Young seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Filoso
Environmental Commission Recording Secretary