

**HOPATCONG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION/OPEN SPACE
COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2005**

The meeting of the Hopatcong Environmental Commission/Open Space Committee was opened by Clifford Lundin at 7:47 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/OPEN SPACE:

PRESENT: Richard Hodson
Clifford Lundin
Elizabeth Mauro
Sylvia Petillo
Joan Reilly (arrived at 7:56 p.m.)
Susan Jones
ABSENT: Elide Young

ROLL CALL/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Bernice Gleason
Sam Hoagland
Malcolm Piester
Elizabeth Mauro
Mary Takacs
Connie Janowski
Marty Janowski
ABSENT: Mercedes Walker

Clifford Lundin opened tonight's meeting and led the Salute to the Flag. Cliff announced that there are two committees of the Borough that are meeting jointly, one being the Environmental Commission and the second is the Open Space Committee. Cliff also announced that for the past several months, we have been working with the Morris Land Conservancy on developing a Trails Master Plan for the Borough. This is a program in flux and we want to hear from the public. The goal is to have a variety of types of trails, a good means of pedestrian flow through the Borough and various ways of hiking and uses of trails to be accommodated and also to look at linkages and ways to connect to the Borough as well as linkages to trails outside the Borough. The whole purpose of tonight's meeting is to hear from the public as to what the needs are of our town. At this point of time, the money that is available is only for planning. To implement the connecting we will have to seek funds. Cliff Lundin turned the meeting over to Desiree Dunn from the Morris Land Conservancy.

Desiree Dunn stated that she has had the pleasure of touring the Borough to see and discuss the trails. Tanya Nolte, the mapping director has designed the trails map. Desiree said that the purpose of the plan is that both commissions have come up with three ideas; variety, connectivity and accessibility.

Tanya Nolte has mentioned that the map is a draft map (a working progress) and it shows the block and lots for Hopatcong and it also shows some of the regional areas. Tanya went on to explain the different colors of the map and what they mean: Open space areas, recreation areas and parks, existing and proposed trails and formal or informal trails.

Desiree Dunn listed some of the trails in the Borough:

- The Highlands Trail
- The Brooklyn Mountain Trail
- The Bear Pond Trail
- The Northern Trail and the Southern Trails

Desiree went on to say that the benefits of trails is to keep fit and to keep aware, and also connections to your neighbors and connections to nature. Desiree's idea is that "All right of ways should be converted into trails immediately."

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON IDEAS FOR THE TRAILS

Trails for walking dogs; nature trails; sidewalk trails; trails that are marked; trails along the waterways (only if it's Borough owned); showing connections; (flat) biking trails; destination points; exercise trail; integration with the schools and adopt a trail.

Desiree Dunn asked the public if there is a destination point or areas in town that would be nice to get to that doesn't already have a trail or a sidewalk. Markings are very important for trails.

Mayor Hodson stated that most people who use trails are walkers, not trails people. The Mayor said that he hopes what will come out of the plan is "Do-ables." Mayor Hodson also said that there is already a water trail. Malcolm Piester mentioned that if we could have a supply of maps that indicate the trails that are in the community with the mileage on the maps. Additional suggestions for the plan could be senior friendly trails or indicate degree of difficulty; port-a-johns on the trails would be a good idea; open land on the trails to do farming or community farming; interpretive trails; giving the town another way to travel or get around and to connect as much as possible.

Desiree stated that the municipality or volunteer groups would be responsible for doing the work on the trails. The public was asked to place markers on the maps and draw or make any changes or suggestions to the maps.

ADJOURN

The Environmental Commission/Open Space Committee adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Filoso
Recording Secretary