

**HOPATCONG OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2004**

The meeting of the Hopatcong Open Space/Recreation Committee was opened by Chairperson Susan Jones 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 Daily Record and The News-Leader and posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Municipal Building for public announcements.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Richard Hodson

Susan Jones
Elizabeth Mauro
Elide Young

ABSENT: Robert Daddis
Joan Reilly

Chairperson Jones led The Salute To The Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 4, 2004 MINUTES

Elide Young made a motion to approve the August 4, 2004 minutes. Elizabeth Mauro seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Susan Jones announced that this evening is a joint Open Space/Environmental Meeting.

Mayor Hodson said he reviewed and discussed the Recreation Plan Draft documents and their sections. The Mayor said that the existing recreation inventory doesn't have any reference to trails and paths. The non-structured recreation section is referred to, as people walking through the natural area set aside by the borough and a standards section is taken from some national source, if you have so many people you need so many fields, etc., and it includes a trail system for hiking and existing trails that are not well marked and maintained by the borough. The Mayor went on to discuss the Recreation Plan. Mayor Hodson looked at the Open Space Plan and there is no mention at all of trails and paths. Board members further discussed these issues. Mayor Hodson said that the final answer to all these issues can only be approved by the Planning Board as long as there are no variances involved.

Mayor Hodson said that when we talk about trails and paths, would the priority be a long trail through the woods or would it be more like paths to encourage walking.

Mr. Piester attended the meeting this evening and Mary Takacs said that Mr. Piester is the right person to discuss trails and path because he has been walking many trails for most of his life. Mr. Piester said that we should make our public more aware of our trails and paths. Markings on the trees will tell you that you are on the trails. Mr. Piester likes

to get as close to wildlife without disturbing them, and he said he is available for whatever the town needs to identify where the trails are, but we should have some type of mapping system.

Elide Young said that we already have a system available in the area, so maybe we should focus on getting maps.

Mayor Hodson asked everyone to keep their eyes open for areas to be used for trails and paths.

The Committee thanked Mr. Piester for coming to the meeting this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Susan Jones asked about lighting on the fields. Mayor Hodson said he believes the Borough is going ahead with some additional lighting at Veteran's Field. The lighting at the area at the Civic Center is going out to bid.

ADJOURN

Elide Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Elizabeth Mauro seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Filoso
Recording Secretary