

OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION JOINT MEETING 1 JUNE 2006 HOPATCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The major purpose of the meeting, a Joint meeting of the Open Space/Recreation Committee and the Hopatcong Environmental Commission, was the presentation, and discussion of the Greenway/Trails Plan for the Borough of Hopatcong. This was the second meeting to discuss a draft of the Plan. It was advertised as open to the public and was structured in a workshop format.

The Open Public Meeting Act statement was given. In accordance with the National Fire Underwriters directive the location of the two fire exits from the room and building were given. The meeting was tape-recorded for the purpose of constructing minutes.

The Open Space/Recreation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:42 PM in the Municipal Building by Chairperson Elide Young. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Richard Hodson, Susan Jones, Cliff Lundin, Elizabeth Mauro, Sylvia Petillo, Joan Reilly, and Elide Young. No member was absent.

The Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Mary Takacs at 7:44 PM. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Patrick Gleason, Sharon Gruber, Sam Hoagland, Elizabeth Mauro, Malcolm Piester, and Mary Takacs. Absent was Bernice Gleason.

On motion of Petillo and Reilly, and the affirmative votes of all, Richard Hodson was appointed acting secretary for the meeting by the Open Space Committee. On motion of Gruber and Gleason, and the affirmative votes of all present, Richard Hodson was appointed acting secretary for the meeting by the Environmental Commission.

- 1. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Chairpersons Young and Takacs.
- 2. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.** No one from the audience chose to speak.
- 3. MINUTES OF 4 MAY 2006 JOINT MEETING:** On motion of Jones and Reilly and the affirmative votes of all Open Space/Recreation Committee

members, the minutes of the 4 May 2006 joint meeting with the Environmental Commission were approved.

4. PRESENTATION OF GREENWAY/TRAILS PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG:

Ten copies of the draft Trails plan provided by Morris Land Conservancy were distributed to members present at the 4 May 2006 meeting. Morris Land Conservancy also supplied a copy on a CD. Copies of the draft plan were distributed to the Borough Council, Borough Planning Board members, Recreation Commission members, Police Chief Swanson, Engineer Ruschke, Planner Nelson, and the Open Space Committee and Environmental Commission members not in attendance. All recipients were asked to review the plan and forward comments to Mayor Hodson by Tuesday 30 May.

Barbara Davis, municipal program director for Morris Land Conservancy, presented an overview of the plan. Her discussion moved quickly from indicating parks and existing trails to a review of the trails plan. She indicated that trails were viewed as connectors of neighborhoods, and also that streets could be viewed as informal connectors. In the interaction with the audience which followed, it was decided to remove from the plan a proposed trail on Hudson Avenue as traffic on Hudson Avenue creates an unsafe condition., and to remove part of a trail on Indian Trail.

A large number of variations on trails were discussed. The end points for the "water trails" were considered. Blackfoot Trail was suggested a substitute for Indian Trail. Mr. Peter Kellogg's lands were considered extremely valuable for implementing some of the trails, Some of the existing ones are on his land. Sharon Gruber indicated one of the local teachers was interested in helping implement a portion of the Plan. Malcolm Piester was congratulated and thanked for a descriptive guide that he constructed of some of the existing trails. It will appear as an appendix to the Plan.

In a discussion of the greenway, it was indicated that much of the land is already set aside. Some has to be purchased of easements acquired. A southerly portion of the Gallo tract is part of it, and a trail across the southerly portion would be a contribution to the Trails Plan. The greenway material could also serve as an appendix to the Plan.

There was a brief discussion of smaller trails projects. This included: additional asphalt walkways in Modick Park and Maxim Glen, walkway around Veteran's Field, more formalized walkway around the Civic Center area.

Potential funding through the Sussex County Open Space Trust was described, as was potential use of Green Acres. Use of the NJDEP

IMAP website was explained, as was EARTH on Google. One can view the Borough's mapping by going to Planning Board under PLANNING on the Borough's website Hopatcong.org and scrolling to Hopatcong's GIS Project.

Additional comments are to be forwarded to Barbara Davis by Tuesday, 6 June. Cliff Lundin offered to forward to her the specifics of the discussed trails in the northerly portion of the Borough. Questions were raised about the extent of the Nature Preserve and the Roland and Mae Eves Preserve. These are described by ordinance. Answers to the questions were given. When complete, larger sized maps of the Trails were suggested. These could be placed on-line and at various locations to inform the public and generate more interest in walking.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business was brought forward.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Dog Park: The Open Space Committee and the Environmental Commission had been asked to consider locations for a dog park. Sylvia Petillo suggested we ask for volunteers for a committee to search for a location for a dog park. In response for indications of those who would serve on a search committee if one were formed, Sylvia Petillo, Joan Reilly, and Elide Young volunteered to serve,

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS: The meeting was opened to the public by Chairpersons Young and Takacs. No one in the audience chose to speak.

6.. ADJOURNMENT: At 9:11 PM on motion of Gleason and Gruber and the affirmative votes of all Environmental Commission members present, the Environmental Commission meeting was adjourned. At 9:13 PM on motion of Mauro and Lundin and the affirmative votes of all Open Space Committee members, the Open Space meeting was adjourned.