

OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING 1 MARCH 2007 HOPATCONG MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The meeting was opened at 7:38 PM in the Municipal Building by Chairperson Elide Young. The Open Public Act meeting statement was given. The meeting was tape-recorded for the purpose of constructing minutes. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Richard Hodson, Susan Jones, Clifford Lundin, , Joan Reilly, and Elide Young. Absent: Elizabeth Mauro, Sylvia Petillo Also in attendance: anticipated new member Robert Daddis.

On motion of Lundin and Jones, and the affirmative votes of all Hodson was appointed acting secretary for the meeting.

- 1. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Chairperson Young.
- 2. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.** No one chose to speak.
- 3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON;. DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL SECRETARY (not recording secretary)** Mayor Hodson opened the meeting for nominations for chairperson. On motion of Jones and Young, and the affirmative vote of all, Joan Reilly was elected chairperson. Chairperson Reilly then conducted the meeting. **DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON;** On motion of Young and Lundin, and the affirmative vote of all, Susan Jones was elected Deputy-Chairperson. **DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL SECRETARY (not recording secretary)** On motion of Jones and Young , and the affirmative vote of all, Elizabeth Mauro was elected Secretary.
- 4. RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING MEETING DATES/TIMES/LOCATION; OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS; AGENDA FOR MEETINGS; LOCATION FOR POSTING NOTICES**

Following discussion of the frequency and dates of meetings, on motion of Young and Jones, and the affirmative votes of all the following resolution was adopted establishing meeting dates/time/location, the official newspapers, official site for posting notices, and typical meeting agenda. The reorganization meeting originally scheduled for 1 February 2007 was re-scheduled to 1 March 2007 because all the member positions had not been filled.

WHEREAS: the adoption of the Open Public Meeting Act prohibits public bodies from having closed door meetings and requires the notice to be given to two newspapers and that this notice be filed with the Borough Clerk,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That at the Meeting held on 1 March, 2007, the Borough of Hopatcong Open Space/Recreation Committee designated the 1 March 2007 meeting as the reorganization meeting for 2007 and that the first Thursday in February 2008, 7 February 2008, will be the Reorganization Meeting for 2008. The meeting is to convene at 7:30 P.M. No regular meeting will be scheduled in January 2008, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: That at the Reorganization Meeting held on 1 March 2007, the Borough of Hopatcong Open Space/Recreation Committee designates the first Thursday of March, June, September, and November 2007 and 29 March 2007 as their regular meeting dates for 2007, and 7 February 2008 as the reorganization meeting for 2008, said meetings to convene at 7:30 P.M. , and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED: That the New Jersey Herald, and the Daily Record be designated as the official newspapers of the Open Space/Recreation Committee. In addition, the Committee will provide notices of meetings to the Sunday Herald, and the Star-Ledger.

Any person requesting a public body to mail them copies of any of the scheduled meeting dates or revision, and any advance written notice of regular, special or rescheduled meetings shall be charged the sum of one dollar for each and every notice mailed. No notice shall be mailed unless prepayment of the aforesaid charge has been received. Notwithstanding the foregoing, and notices requested by the news media shall be mailed to such news media free of charge.

**SCHEDULED MEETING DATES FOR THE BOROUGH OF
HOPATCONG OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE – 2006/2007**

1 March 2007
29 March, 2007
7 June, 2007
6 September, 2007
1 November, 2007
7 February, 2008

THE AGENDA FOR ALL MEETINGS

1. Opening of Meeting/Open Public meetings Act Statement/Roll Call
2. Moment of Silent Reflection/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes/ Authorize Payment of Bills
4. Meeting open to the public for discussion of items on the agenda

5. Committee Reports
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Open to public for discussion of all items
9. Adjournment of Meeting

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The public place at which all notices shall be posted will be the bulletin board situated in the hallway in the Municipal Building, and that the copies of this Resolution be given to all aforementioned newspapers and one copy of this Resolution be filed with the Borough Clerk.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 28 November 2006. : On motion of Young and Jones and the affirmative votes of all, the minutes of the 28 November 2006 meeting were approved. These minutes had been circulated in December 2006.
6. DISTRIBUTE LIST OF MEMBERS; Copies of a list of the Open Space/Recreation Committee were distributed. They were reviewed by the members, and changed accordingly

7. OLD BUSINESS:

**STATUS OF OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COMMITTEE TRUST
FUND ENDORSEMENTS**

SUMMARY PROJECTS APPROVED BY OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COM.

OPEN SPACE/RECREATION COM.	12/31/2004	7/5/2005	12/31/2006
PROJECT			
THREE 60 FT BASEPATH FIELDS, ON HILL BEHIND CIVIC CENTER	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
ROLLER HOCKEY RINK	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
WALKWAY-MODICK PARK	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
VETERANS WAY IMPROVEMENT	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$18,500
VETERANS FIELD EXTENSION	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
SKATEBOARD PARK	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
LOW LEVEL LIGHTING-CC HILL	\$45,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
FREEDOM PARK	7-Sep-06	\$12,000	\$12,000
MODICK WALKWAYS	7-Sep-06	\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$341,500	\$341,500	\$378,500

At the end of 2004 the total expenditure recommended/authorized by the Open Space/Recreation Committee was \$341,500. This list was reaffirmed 2 February 2006. The sewer contractor under an agreement with the Hopatcong School District is placing fill made available from the sewer project, on the site for the "60 FT BASEPATH FIELDS". Any additional development is on hold awaiting the completion of the fill. The ROLLER HOCKEY RINK is complete and opened. The extension of the WALKWAY in MODICK PARK is complete. Of the items in the VETERANS WAY IMPROVEMENT the poles and banners are up and the planter area constructed. Blocks have been installed at the Veteran's monument. The wall to be constructed to replace the rope barrier at the monument has not been installed. Partial funding for that will come from Northwood Engine Company #2. As part of the VETERANS FIELD EXTENSION, fill was placed and spread. Topsoil and seeding was done. The SKATEBOARD PARK was completed and opened. Lighting of two fields on top of the hill behind the Civic Center is completed.

During 2004 the Committee started discussing the need for paths and walkways. The Committee established as a goal for 2005 the development of such a plan. Some locations were considered. It was recognized that a specific plan was required to address this need. During 2005 an anonymous grant was given to Morris Land Conservancy and, following discussion with the Borough, was used for a Greenway/Trails Plan. Its completion date was July 2006. A Trails Implementation Committee was established. At the 28 November 2006 Open Space/Recreation Committee meeting it was considered that one easily accomplished trail/pathway addition would be to extend them in Modick Park and Maxim Glen. Sylvia Petillo made a motion to start work on Modick Park and Maxim Glen. Susan Jones seconded the motion and all were in favor. Joan Reilly suggested constructing pathways around Veteran's Field. Joan Reilly made a motion to establish a pathway at Veteran's Field. Sylvia Petillo seconded the motion and all were in favor. The Committee has not formalized its recommendation for a trail at Veterans Field.

The number of members of the Trails Plan Implementation Committee had been discussed. The number ten seemed functional. The Committee would be expected to provide a report to the Open Space Committee within sixty days of its formation. The Committee would select its chairperson. Original suggested members were: Malcolm Piester, Sharon Gruber, Dave Barnish, another member from the Boy Scouts, two members from the Girl Scout organization, Cliff Lundin, Elide Young, Joan Reilly, Marlene Colabella or other member of the Woman's Club, someone from Hopatcong Seniors or the Golden Lunch Bunch, a representative of the School athletic program, and Tim Carey. The charge to the Committee is the general implementation of the Trails Plan. There was discussion as to where that implementation might

start, but it was left to the Committee to decide. The above constraints and Committee membership was moved by Jones, seconded by Reilly, and approved by the affirmative votes of all.

The Mayor and Council have considered plans for a “dog park”. The first plan for a dog park was at the corner of Kisling Avenue and Maxim Drive. That site has been abandoned from consideration. The project is still under consideration but no specific site has been selected.

The Highlands Council has completed the draft of its Regional Master Plan, and has circulated it for discussion. The comment period on the Plan runs through 2 April. The Mayor and Council have requested changes in the development map that is part of the Plan. It may impact part of the greenway/trails plan, as well as other development in the Borough.

On motion of Jones and Young, and the affirmative votes of all, the Committee reaffirmed the 31 December 2006 list of projects without any changes.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Open Space/Recreation Ordinance revisions being considered by the governing body. Mayor Hodson reported that the Borough Council is in the process of amending the ordinance establishing the Open Space/Recreation Committee to provide for a member from the Planning Board and one from the Zoning Board, as opposed to the current membership which is one member from either the Planning Board or the Zoning Board. To address the potential of a tie vote, the chairperson will be given an additional vote to break a tie. It is anticipated that Robert Daddis will be appointed as he is the Zoning Board member recommended by the Zoning Board. It is anticipated that the revision will be introduced at the 7 March Mayor and Council meeting.

B. Report from Trails Implementation Committee: Clifford Lundin was elected chair by that Committee and reported on the first meeting of the Trails Implementation Committee, held 12 February. Two members, Betty Reid and Malcolm Piester resigned, and two Girl School leaders, Nancy Fernandez and Sue Suplicki have volunteered to serve. On motion of Lundin and Jones, and the affirmative votes of all, these four changes were approved. On the 12th the Committee discussed implementing the Trails Plan, which was its charge. A gap in the “green belt” was indicated. The next meeting of that Committee is scheduled for 8 March at 7:30 in Borough Hall. On 14 March at 5:30 there will be an on-site meeting at Veterans Field to discuss the potential trails there. Engineer Ruschke will

be there. The meeting is for the Open Space/Recreation Committee and the Trails Implementation Committee.

C. Acquisition of property: Some areas have been considered. It was agreed to communicate with some agencies for assistance and direction, as substantial purchases run in the millions of dollars. Lundin requested colored coded tax maps for some areas to assist in the acquisition plan.

D. Borough Attorney's review of ordinance: The Borough attorney reviewed the enabling ordinance establishing the Open Space/Recreation Committee and indicated some provisions of the ordinance to be addressed. The Committee issued a report in 2005 indicating its activities since inception.

E. Whitten Park: Robert Daddis reminded the Committee of a potential project it had considered, the use of Whitten Park located at the intersection of Maxim Drive and Hudson Avenue. There is a question of encroachment also. At the request of the Committee the area was surveyed and wetland delineation was performed. The Committee will discuss it at its meeting on 29 March. Copies of the survey and delineation are to be provided.

9. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS: The meeting was opened to the public by Chairperson Reilly . No one chose to speak.

10. ADJOURNMENT: At 9:04 PM on motion of Young and Lundin and the affirmative votes of all, the meeting was adjourned.