

Mendham Borough Open Space Advisory Committee

Approved 1/13/2011

Date: 11 /4 / 2010 – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ

A. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Acting Chairman Topping.

The group observed a Moment of Silence in honor of former chairman Robert Collins who died recently.

B. Chairman's Adequate Notice Statement:

Notice of this meeting was published in the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 10, 2009 in accordance with the Open Meeting Act and was posted on the Phoenix House bulletin board on the same date.

C. Roll Call:

Mr. Topping, Acting Chairman - Present
Mr. Connolly, Secretary - Present
Mr. DeBuvitz - Present
Mr. Andrus, Council Representative - absent
Mr. Barry - absent
Mr. Slutsky - Present
Mr. Sprandel – Present
Ellen Sandman, Borough Administrator – (Part time)

D. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the meeting of July 9, 2010 were reviewed and approved, motion by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Sprandel, unanimous approval.

E. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

F . Old Business:

1. Tranquility Garden

Ellen Sandman attended this portion of the meeting and updated the committee on the status of this project. The immediate need is to erect a fence to separate the garden from the property of the homeowner. Ms. Sandman has obtained input from the Historic Commission and received several bids for construction of the fence, but the estimated cost of \$27,000 is thought to be too high. After a general discussion of the project and available alternatives it was agreed that an attractive and appropriate wooden fence could be installed by Borough employees at a more reasonable cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Slutsky, seconded by Mr. Connolly to recommend the expenditure of up to \$15,000 from the Open Space Trust Fund to accomplish this. During discussion, it was pointed out that this expenditure was appropriate to our mission of providing “practical outdoor recreational opportunities for residents.” The motion was approved on a unanimous vote.

2. Borough Loop Trail

This project fits well with our mission to, “further develop a system of trails within the Borough”. Mr. Slutsky reported on the progress of this project including the two site meetings which have been held. The committee reviewed the proposed route of the trail in detail. A major concern (and expense) is where the trail travels along and crosses Hilltop Road.

Approximately 1,050 feet of sidewalk would need to be constructed along Hilltop Road. Next steps include; a committee meeting to finalize the route, develop an implementation plan and budget, and have a public meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the committee would provide support to this project, including recommending the use of Open Space funds if needed.

4. McVickers Preserve

This 107 acre property (formerly referred to Thomas Property) is jointly owned by Mendham Borough and the Schiff Land Trust and the new Franklin Parker Trail is now open and available for public use. It can be accessed from a new parking lot on the right on Pleasant Valley Road and also from Thomas Road. There was some discussion about the lack of any signage for this new trail. It was also suggested that the Borough website could be used to encourage use of this and other properties.

G. New Business:

Mr. Topping circulated a memo from Morris County seeking input on a list of farms that the county wants to acquire development rights in order to preserve them as open space. Mr. Topping will request that the Borough engineer plot these properties on the open space plan.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. DeBuvitz, seconded by Mr. Sprandel, and approved on a unanimous basis at 8:45 PM.

The next meeting will be on Thursday January 13, 2011.

SUBMITTED BY:

George Connolly
Secretary