

Minutes

Mendham Borough Open Space Advisory Committee

Date: July 8, 2010 – 7:00 PM

Approved November 4, 2010

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

A. Call To Order:

Vice Chairman Topping called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

B. Chairman's Adequate Notice Statement:

Notice of this meeting was published in the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 10, 2010 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, Vice Chairman - Present
Mr. Connolly, Secretary - Present
Mr. DeBuvitz - Absent
Mr. Andrus, Council Representative - Present
Mr. Barry - Present
Mr. Slutsky - Present
Mr. Sprandel - Present

D. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Topping made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous as presented. This was seconded by Mr. Slutsky and the motion was approved on a unanimous basis.

E. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

G. Old Business:

1. Tranquility Garden

The closing has occurred and the process of transforming this property into a public property is in progress. The council has had some discussions with a

landscape architect who has submitted several proposals which the committee will be asked to review. Rather than using professionals (which can get quite expensive) it has been suggested that volunteer planning assistance be considered in order to save some money.

Mr. Slutsky suggested that a sign be erected indicating that the garden is public space.

Mr. Topping suggested that Art Polumbo (Polumbo Associates of Morristown) be considered as a lower cost option if an architect is to be used.

John Andrus will send details for the committee to review. Members will to submit comments to the Secretary for consolidation.

2. Bierwert Property

There is an announcement in the newspaper that this property has been sold for \$700,000 (substantially less than original asking price). Ellen Sandman will be consulted regarding coordinating with the new owners to request that the orchard on the property be preserved as a historic property.

3. Borough Loop Trails

Mr. Slutsky reported that the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions has awarded a grant of \$6,000 to assist in the development of the Borough Loop Trail (a partly developed trail that goes around the perimeter of the Borough) into a connected system of walking and biking trails. (see attached memo from ANJEC).

A kick-off meeting has been scheduled for 7/21/2010 at 8:00 AM at the Phoenix House. All members of the committee are invited to attend and participate.

McVickers Brook Preserve

This 107 acre property (formerly referred to Thomas Property) is jointly owned by Mendham Borough and the Schiff Land Trust and offers access to the 430 acres currently owned by Schiff. 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 (.75 mile south of Hilltop Rd.)

H. New Business:

I. Other Business:

The group expressed thanks to Mr. Robert Collins, who has decided to resign from the Committee, for his years of service as a member and as Chairman of this committee. Committee members, as well as others who have worked with Bob

over the years, are requested to sign a card and a commemorative book for him. The card and book are in Diana Collins office in the Phoenix House.

J. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Connolly to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Slutsky; motion was approved on a unanimous basis. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

George Connolly
Secretary