

**TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS  
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Township of Morris Open Space Committee was called to order, on Thursday evening, September 27, 2007, at 7:00 P.M., in the Municipal Building, 50 Woodland Avenue, Township of Morris. The Open Space Committee met for an informal discussion; the following persons were present:

Members Present

Richard Watson  
William Claxton  
Lawrence Vitale  
Julie Baron  
Patrick Minter

Members Absent

Robert Nace  
Michael Brennan  
John Storey  
Rick Haan

Also Present

Fred Rossi, Township Administrator  
Sonia Santiago, Secretary  
Tom Kenny, Special Project Coordinator

Also Absent

Jennifer McCulloch, Morris Land Conservancy  
Bill Foelsch, Recreation Director  
James R. Slate, Town Engineer

Mr. Richard Watson issued the following Statement of Adequate Notice:

Adequate Notice of this meeting of the Open Space Committee of the Township of Morris was given as required and defined by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

"Written Notice was given on September 20, 2007 to the official newspaper, Daily Record, and to the additional newspapers, Star Ledger, and Morris News Bee by mail at least 48 hours prior to the date of this meeting, and a copy of the Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building of the Township of Morris and a copy of the Notice was likewise filed in the Township Clerk's Office and copies of this Notice were mailed to all persons who have requested individual notice, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-19, all of which Notices were given at least 48 hours prior to the date of this meeting, and I hereby hand to the Committee Secretary a copy of the Notice which was given as above set forth for appropriate retention in the Municipal Files".

Mr. Richard Watson administered the Oath of Office and Oath of Allegiance to the following Members:

- Mr. William Claxton

Mr. Vitale moved, seconded by Ms. Baron, all in favor that the minutes of the June 28, 2007 regular and closed meeting are approved as circulated and placed on file in the office of the Open Space Committee.

Communications and General Business

Review of Open Space Committee Activities – No one from the Morris Conservancy was present to give an update of the Open Space Activities.

#### Other Matters

Trails Plan discussion – Tom Kenny stated that on September 26, 2007 the trail committee held a meeting and that they had a good public turnout. There were very good ideas and input from the public. The main focus was on safety issues such as patrol, signs, lights, bike lanes on Western Avenue and Madison Avenue, sidewalks linking various destinations to schools, shopping, historic sites and linking to downtown Morristown. Marty Epstein, from the Marty's Reliable Cycle offered to assist the trail committee. Mr. Kenny also stated that this was a good start. Mr. Andrew Szwak, from Morris Land Conservancy has experience on developing trail plans. It would be good if we could have Bill Foelsch assist on the trail plan. There will be a trail tour on Saturday, October 13, 2007 starting at 9:00 am at the Municipal Building.

Public Commentary – Mr. Robert St. Jacques, 208 Lake Road, RA-25 zone, addressed the committee and stated that he would like to sell a portion of his property to be added to the Township Open Space on Lake Manor. No appraisal has been done. Mr. Watson informed Mr. St. Jacques that we will analyze the potential and use of the property and the possibility of having the committee come out and look at the property and then making a recommendation to the Township committee. Mr. Watson also informed Mr. St. Jacques that the Town also takes donations and that there are possibilities that the homeowner can get a tax deduction. The committee thanks Mr. St. Jacques for approaching the committee and sharing his proposal.

Commentary by Committee Members – Mr. Watson informed the committee that the Morris Land Conservancy has asked the committee to recommend the Township committee to favorably endorse the resolution for Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007. The Committee felt that this should be further discussed and the matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Mr. Watson informed the committee that the County Open Space Committee will be doing a tour on Saturday, September 29, 2007 and our application for the Mt. Kemble property is the first to be toured at 8:10 am. We asked the committee members to please come out and support the tour.

#### **Closed Session**

Mr. Vitale moved and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted authorizing a closed session:

**WHEREAS**, this meeting is a duly and properly called regular meeting of this public body, and adequate public notice has been given as provided for by the Open Public Meetings Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now necessary that this Open Space Committee consider matters involving:

- a. Material which if made public might impair the rights of privacy of any individual.

Which falls within the exceptions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act and, therefore, is a matter, which this body determines, should be discussed at a closed meeting.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Open Space Committee of the Township of Morris as follows:

1. That this body shall conduct a closed meeting concerning the above referenced matters, all of which involve exceptions set forth in said Open Public Meetings Act and are matters which this body hereby determines are of such a nature that they cannot be discussed at an open meeting, and this body is at this time unable to determine when the matters under discussion can be disclosed to the public. However, this body will make such a disclosure when circumstances permit.

Regular meeting called back to order at 8:20 pm.

With no further business for consideration by the Township Open Space on a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Santiago, Secretary  
Township of Morris Open Space