

**OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION  
MINUTES  
APRIL 27, 2006**

At 7:44 p.m., Ms. Butch opened the meeting.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call: Present: Alves, Abilheira, Butch, Morelli, Romano, Siedman, Wingerter  
Absent: Denardo, Disick, Mullarkey

Public Comment portion opened and closed at 7:45 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of March 23, 2006. Mr. Wingerter made a motion to approve and Ms. Morelli offered a second. All in favor.

Ms. Butch reviewed the correspondence received since the last meeting. Ms. Butch and Mr. Wingerter don't recommend any members attend the Annual Appraiser's Conference, Farmland Preservation Program being held on June 7, 2006. They attended the conference last year and found that it was not geared towards Open Space volunteers.

**Old Business**

Ms. Butch mentioned that the applications for the next funding round have been submitted to Green Acres and SADC. Millstone has been granted \$1.5 million dollars, which the maximum amount awarded for 2006.

Mr. Wingerter mentioned that the Trail Easement Ordinance is complete. He suggested we get a copy from the Clerk.

Ms. Butch spoke to Mayor Grbelja regarding Severable Exceptions. The Mayor will follow-up to see if any progress has been made.

Mr. Wingerter met with Matt Shafai, Township Engineer, regarding the ROSI. Unfortunately, the meeting had to be postponed due to the relocation of the municipal offices and files.

Ms. Butch mentioned that the Master Plan has the trail map. This needs to be updated with new trails so it is clearly visible where links are needed. When an applicant applies for Planning Board approval, it will be easy to see if approval should be contingent upon a trail. Mr. Abilheira mentioned he and Mr. Steib discussed how the township can require trails since we have a Trail Ordinance. As a result, Mr. Wingerter asked for a copy of the resolution on the Huneke property so that a trail is considered when an application comes in for further development on the property.

The Engineering firm that was awarded the REC study did a presentation for the Township Committee. Mr. Wingerter suggested that the ad hoc committee should be representative of many committees and organizations in town including Open Space, REC, Planning Board, the Board of Education. Mr. Abilheira stated that the Committee will meet with all groups and prepare a long-term comprehensive plan and wish list.

Mr. Wingerter hopes to attend the Recreation meeting on Monday. He mentioned that the Drug Alliance is reviewing a plan to print maps that will depict all recreation space as well as the streets in town. The Alliance will solicit local business to advertise along the perimeter of the map. Ms. Butch mentioned that the map will not include county and state trails so it map appear incomplete.

Ms. Butch asked Mr. Wingerter about the Open Space Property on Baird Road. He will ask the Township Committee and the Recreation Committee about this property.

### **New Business**

Ms. Butch has been asked to conduct a trail presentation for the Township Committee in May as well as an OSFP presentation in June. This is a valuable opportunity to share the Committee's vision. Additionally, the laws that shield property owners from liability on the trails as well as the recreation insurance coverage on the trails will be discussed. In regard to trail funded by Green Acres, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing is allowed on the trails. Trails donated by a developer can be more restrictive (i.e. Galloping Hills is for horses only). The Board Secretary will contact the County Park System to get information on trail signs, specifically right-of-way signs.

Millstone Day is scheduled for September 17, 2006, at Frogbridge. The OSFP Committee and the Agriculture Council will request side-by-side tables. Mr. Wingerter will see if he can get the money booth again. Ms. Siedman is soliciting prizes from local business. Mr. Romano commented we will need at least three tables and many extension cords.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance: Money should be coming in on the Livak and Mattei property shortly.

Signage: Mr. Wingerter will be installing Farmland Preservation signs at the Butch and Halka property this weekend.

Public Relations / Publications: The possibility of a one-cent increase in the Open Space tax was discussed. Mr. Abilheira mentioned that in light on the school budget defeat, this might be a tough year to receive approval. He also mentioned that it might be too late to win voter approval by November. Mr. Wingerter mentioned using a "Horses don't need schools" approach. Mr. Abilheira suggested "Pay one cent now, save two cents later." Ms. Butch asked Mr. Abilheira to gather financial information and Mr. Wingerter to bring marketing information.

Legislative Awareness: Mr. Romano will be attending a summit in August in Atlantic City, NJ. The horse industry, which is the #2 agricultural business in New Jersey, is losing people to neighboring states that allow slots at the racetrack. Both New York and Pennsylvania have approved slots.

Mr. Wingerter mentioned that the state may no longer be picking up the dead deer. It is uncertain if this will become a county or local responsibility.

**Planning Board/Board of Adjustment**

Mr. Wingerter requested that the Planning Board Secretary be notified that the Horzepa application should include a trail.

Mr. Wingerter made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:40. Ms. Siedman offered a second. All in favor.

At 9:40, the Council returned to the Regular Session.

At 9:40 p.m., Mr. Wingerter offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. Alves offered a second. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Naugle