

# Minutes of the Open Space Committee

June 22, 2009

Councilmember Trawinski called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

**Present:** Mayor Steven Weinstein, Councilmember Ed Trawinski, Acting Manager Joanne Kwasniewski, Superintendent of Recreation Jim Graff, Michael Hakim, Crystal Robbins, Joan Goldstein, Ira Frankel, Peter Kortright, and Maureen Moriarty.

**Absent:** Jack Susser, Heather Blecher, Ted King, and Wendy Dabney.

## **Minutes and Attendance:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with corrections.

## **Updates:**

Lackland Property – Borough Manager Kwasniewski spoke with Borough Attorney Rosenberg and Lackland asked if there should be a reservation for drainage, which is not necessary. The Borough expects to close within the next 30 days.

George Street – Borough Manager Kwasniewski stated that this has not been heard by the Zoning Board. The meeting ran late and the Attorney for Company #1 did not want to start an application and not finish it. It will be discussed at the July 20 meeting. The Borough is conducting sub-surface radar to make sure that there are no underground tanks. Once the Borough is done and the Fire Company receives their approval, this project should be finished as well.

Naugle House – Mayor Weinstein stated that the County Executives seemed more receptive of connecting the property to the County Park. Mayor Weinstein did meet with the County and the County was interested in the Vander Beck house, which is owned by the Vander Plaat family. The Borough has reached out to the Vander Plaat family, however at this time the family was not interested in selling the property. This property will be discussed by the Council during a closed session meeting on June 23.

There has been interest in the property by individuals, who would like to open a café or small restaurant. However the interested party understands that the house would be subject to historic preservation and conservation easements.

Michael Hakim stated that once a commercial use is put on the property, parking would have to be provided. There is plenty of parking for the County Park and the County might be willing to allow the Borough to use it. Michael Hakim asked if the County was interested in owning the Naugle House as a historic element of the park. Mayor Weinstein stated that the County is interested.

Daly Field – Mayor Weinstein stated that this property will be discussed by the Council during a closed session meeting on June 23.

Michael Hakim stated that the Borough was mostly successful in the grant application to ANJEC for the Environmental Resource Inventory. The Borough was awarded \$7,000;

however the Borough has not received the official letter yet. The Environmental Resource Inventory will be done by the Environmental Commission.

Mayor Weinstein stated that the turf field was beginning to be rolled out. The Borough is will have a celebration to open the new turf field at the end of July or the beginning of August. All Sports might have an all star game with prior members.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that it was a successful Canoe Regatta, except for the two people that went into the water. It was a good turnout with 23 canoes racing.

It was mentioned that there is a patch of poison ivy on the River Walk at the entrance closest to Memorial School. There is also poison ivy along the trail.

**Public Comment:** Pam Coles, 13-34 George Street, stated that the Historic Commission has had several events over the last few months to incorporate other commissions to see what they are doing. One person from the County has reached out to the Commission and has been very supportive of the Naugle House project. Pam Coles stated that the Historic Commission would like to do an informal presentation to the Open Space Committee of what would be possible if the Borough of Fair Lawn were able to purchase the Naugle House.

The Borough has two willing buyers for the Naugle House, to put the property back on the tax maps. The farmhouse structure is sound and this piece of property could also be sold. There is an architect that restores historic homes. The architect was interested in using the properties as his primary showcase by restoring the old Naugle farmhouse. There are a lot of options. The Historic Commission will be reaching out to the County to do a presentation for the County also.

Crystal Robbins asked what part of the Open Space funding is allowed to purchase historic properties. The Open Space Tax is exclusively for undeveloped open space. Michael Hakim stated that there are funds that are coming in that can be used for historic sites providing that the use of the facility can be justified to be for open space and recreation.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that the Open Space Trust Fund for the Borough is strictly for acquisition. The local Open Space Trust Fund cannot be used to purchase the Naugle property because there is a house on it. Michael Hakim stated that Green Acres funding can be used for this purpose.

Mayor Weinstein stated that doors are opening for the Borough. Many options were put on the table with the County and now the County is waiting for the Borough to come back after the Borough speaks with the property owners.

A question was raised regarding "Welcome to Fair Lawn" signs and if there was a rule regarding the placement of such signs. Councilmember Trawinski stated that the Council placed signs about ten years ago. There is no sign when you come off of Route 4 onto Saddle River Road. Councilmember Trawinski stated that it is an issue between the Broadway Improvement Corporation and the County. It is in the Master Plan for Broadway. There is a sign in front of the Hyatt on Route 4. The Council can look into moving it.

Mayor Weinstein stated that the Open Space Committee will not meet in July. If there is nothing that the Committee needs to meet about, if not the Committee will be notified if the meeting will be held in August.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2009. (No meeting in July)

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.