

**Borough of Watchung
Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
May 20, 2013**

Ms. Beck-Clemens called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present at the meeting were:

Beck-Clemens (X), Desnoyers (X), Jacques (A), Loboizzo (X),
Schaefer (X), Stout (X), Tucker (X)

Ms. Beck-Clemens read the minutes from the February 18, 2013 meeting into the record. A motion of approval of these minutes was made by Mrs. Schaefer and second by Mr. Stout.

New members Peter Desnoyers and Victor Loboizzo were introduced to the committee. Ms- Beck-Clemens is now the Council Liaison. The committee voted in Peter Desnoyers as Chair Person.

Committee reports were introduced as follows:

Planning Board: Tracee Schaefer explained about the Somerset County Transportation and Business have chosen 7 pilots sites for future business development study grants. One is Weldon Quarry. The Planning Board had formed a sub-committee which gave ideas of what may be desired for the Weldon Site.

Some of the ideas were Open Space, Assisted Living, Outdoor entertainment and small outdoor eateries. It was also noted that the Weldon family has no intention of selling at this time.

Historical Committee: Sue Tucker explained that the Texier House is coming together with 6 small rooms on the first floor that will be dedicated to a museum and displays. She also told us that there is an

original skylight/window from the Moldynke Castle with their Crest which was being restored. There is an Eagle Scout who will be working on a Sports Display to be completed this summer.

Recreation Committee: Bill Jacques was absent but Dianna Beck-Clemens spoke and told the committee that the fence around the old tennis courts at Camp Endeavor is now down.

There was discussion that perhaps the School system would like to purchase this property. She mentioned that the trees and stumps that are located on the Ness property were now going out to bid for removal and mulching now that the Borough has received FEMA grant monies.

It was mentioned that Weldon was donating the base for the tennis courts at Mobus Field. There is also now a joint venture with Warren for all the athletics except the Fishing Derby which Watchung will actually have at the Watchung Lake this year.

Enviromental Committee: Jim Stout said that they basically spoke about the Weldon Quarry site.

Dianna Beck-Clemens then spoke about the Ness property. The property was purchased March 7, 2006 for a little over \$8,000,000. There is approximately \$400,000 in escrow for environmental remediation. The Borough has received the \$1,000,000 grant from the County which they have used to pay down the Bond. There is currently a \$.02 per \$100 assessment that is gong towards OpenSpace. This money is actually also going towards the buying down of the Ness Bond. The bond should be paid off by 2027.

It was also discussed that perhaps now if there is to be a new Ness Committee formed, it should be covered by the Open Space Committee. Dianna was going to bring that up with the Mayor and Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next meeting will be
September 16, 2013 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracee Schaefer

Discussion Points for Open Space May 21st Meeting

Background

Planning Board is responsible for the Borough's Master Plan. This Plan is re-examined every 10 years. Part of the Master Plan is Open Space (page 13 of Master Plan).

Page 2: 109.88 acres total: break out, Watchung 67.13, Somerset County 6.82, DOT 1.63, Union County Par 3.83 and Board of Ed 30.47

Page 5: Definition and Criteria of Open Space Open Space was created as part of the criteria for the NJDEP Green Acres Program for Open Space and Recreation Plan which is part of the Open Space Preservation Trust Fund.

Page 9: Requirements for matching funds and acquisition grants from NJDEP Green Acres Program

Page 16: Production of a pamphlet explaining the OSP.

Page 18: Current State Development & Redevelopment Plan

Page 23: SCORP NJ Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan 2003-2007 Every 5 yrs.? Due 2012?

Page 25:& 26 Somerset County Opens Space Partnership Grants (swimming & water sports, i.e. Brook Hill)

Page 29: Master Plan 1999 – recommendations parallel with Open Space

Page 32: List of all Public Open Space properties

Page 34: Existing Land Use Map

Page 35: List of all Private Open Space properties

Pages 99-100: Vacant Private parcels (51.47 acres) via street, owner and size.

* Pages 76-79: Historic sites in town (map on page 79)