

## MINUTES - TOWN OF SOUTHEAST OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: January 31, 2007

Place: Town Hall

Time: 7:40PM

**Attendance:** County Executive, Robert J. Bondi; Supervisor John Dunford; Facilitator, Richard Honeck; Trust for Public Land Representative, Matt Shurtliff; Town Assessor, Bill Ford and Advisory Committee members: Angelo Mattra; Milly Nugent, Cherie Ingraham, Don Burrows, Ann Fanizzi.

**Not present:** Kerry Cunningham

**New member:** Jim DiBella

1. Introduction of new member: Jim DiBella

2. Discussion - Available parcels for possible purchase through the November resident-approved \$5 million bond referendum. Supervisor Dunford introduced County Executive Bondi who then gave an overview of parcels ripe for preservation including the 166 acres owned by the United Jewish Appeal; the 134 acre Getzhoff property and parcels adjacent and contiguous to the Tilly Foster Conservation totalling 600 acres. The purchase would meet several needs: protect 52 acres of wetlands and the watershed; permit the relocation of the Putnam County Humane Society from its Old Rte 6 site and provide the Town lands designated for active and passive recreation while at the same time, in the case of the UJA parcel, since they are a not-for-profit, not incurring a tax liability for the residents.

The mechanism for preservation and purchase would require partnering with the Department of Environmental Protection and possibly joint ownership of the UJA parcel by the county and the Town of Southeast. Trust for Public Land presently has an option that will expire at the end of March so that several hurdles have to be surmounted i.e. publicity campaign; public notification in media; public hearing at least by March 8th; DEP agreement; legislative approval in light of their opposition to further East of Hudson expenditures for open space preservation by the County. County Executive Bondi, however, felt somewhat confident that the County would be able to meet this objection and fulfill DEP (1/3, 1/3,1/3) proportional requirement for EOH fund allocation.

Contingency plan discussed should expiration occur without action Matt Shortliff suggested several options, either go to UJA and request extension of option or Trust for Public Land purchase the land outright.

Further discussion centered on the town's contribution toward the purchase of the parcels. It was the consensus of the Advisory Board that the entire 600 acres be presented as a package for purchase and that Tax Assessor Bill Ford investigate the amount of total disbursement from the \$5 million bond fund.

The Advisory Board agreed that a draft statement should incorporate the elements of the discussions pursued at the meeting.

Based upon preliminary study by Trust for Public Land, the Town of Southeast and the Open Space Advisory Board recommends that the Supervisor pursue discussions and research with all interested parties toward possible open space acquisition of the properties known as TM, etc (Please note Angelo took down the actual wording and the Tax Map numbers).

Discussion - Bill Ford - explanation of the evaluation criteria for acquisition grid developed by Angelo Mattra and Don Burrows and approved by the Board and the fit with proposed parcels either presently under review or contemplated for the future.

This portion of the meeting ended and the organizational portion of the meeting then proceeded.

Election of Officers of the Town of Southeast Open Space Advisory Board were approved unanimously:

Chairperson - Angelo Mattra  
Vice Chairperson/ Treasurer - Millie Nugent  
Secretary - Jim DiBella

Odds and Ends - Thank you notes for the supporters and contributors to the Open Space gathering at the Southeast Grille; development of talking points re: UJA property.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted.

Ann Fanizzi, Temporary Secretary