

Town of Southeast
Open Space Advisory Committee
Meeting: April 27, 2005; 7:00 PM

In Attendance:

Kerry Cunningham
Cherie Ingraham
Don Burrows

Ann Fanizzi
Angelo Matra
Mildred Nugent

Absent:

Dick Honeck- *Town Board Liaison* David Bruen - *Chairman*

A meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was held in the Southeast Town Hall on April 27, 2005, 2005 at 7:00 PM. The regularly scheduled meeting was held to review identified vacant lands that were considered for future "open space" within the Town. Despite the absence of two members the Committee decided to meet since a quorum was present.

Ann Fanizzi led a discussion about adopting a system that could be used to rank properties for "open space" designation. The Committee brainstormed to come up with criteria that would be used in the ranking system.

Ann also contributed her thoughts and the Committee discussed the option of adopting a "transfer tax" to raise funds needed to preserve open space. Members agreed that the Town could not go back to the well (taxpayers) year after year to fund open space preservation; thus a need for a more permanent solution to the funding issue.

The discussion listed future directions the Committee wished to take. Among them were the following:

- An agenda should be prepared for each meeting. Cherie Ingraham agreed to help prepare it.
- The election of a Vice Chairperson should be held. The current Chairman and Secretary would continue in their posts and would be voted upon by acclamation.
- The Committee wished to know the Town's multi-year financial commitment to preserving open space.
- The Committee wished to see all vacant properties within the town that may be considered for open space. This listing, by section, block and lot and by location (street or road address) should be made available to the Committee approximately 1 week prior to its next meeting.
- The Committee also requested that additional copies of the small maps distributed by Bill Ford at last month's meeting be made available to other members. Only 2-3 copies were made available to members. As such, some members did not know where the parcels were located and could not personally visit the sites.
- The Committee requested that Bill Ford, the Southeast Town Assessor, provide a listing of all "Arms Length Real Estate" sales for the most

recent annual period. Such information would be used to determine the possibility of using a “transfer tax”.

The next meeting will be scheduled for **May 25, 2005** at 7:00 PM at the Southeast Town Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.