

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

Agenda

February 4th, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act", notice has been given that the Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission conducts its regular business meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the main meeting room of the municipal building. Notice of this meeting was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the monthly agendas are posted on the bulletin board of the municipal building.

AGENDA

Topic	Intent/Materials
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment	Call meeting to order and take roll call.
Presentation of Minutes	Review and approval of January Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Henriksen who was not present at the January meeting.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Green Acres Program Inspection Report (Duckworth)<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Green Acres Inspection Report Letter (Attachment 1)b) NJWSA Ash Tree Remediation (Duckworth)c) LT Open Space Signage (Duckworth)<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Boundary Signageb. Hiker Signaged) Red Mill Race Preserve Sign (Henriksen)e) ANJEC membership applicationf) SJ TCNJ Volunteer Projectg) Green Acres Grant
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Deer Hunting on Township Open Space Properties (Hardy)
Newsletter	<p>Spring newsletter deadline is February 1st. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well Testing (Koch)• Recycling Best Practices (Laul)• EOSC 2019 YIR/Call for Volunteers (Adam)• Tick Article (Petzinger) <p>Backlog: Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p>
Correspondence	<p>Acknowledge and share any formal correspondence received by EOSC chair or informal correspondence received by EOSC members. All correspondence when possible is scanned and stored digitally in a public access Google Drive folder at https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwalU4TGc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

Minutes

February 4th, 2019

ROLL CALL

EOSC Member	Role	Attendance
Adam Duckworth	Chairman, Planning Board Liaison	X
Sharon Petzinger	Member	X
Warren Newman	Member	No
Erik Jan Henriksen	Member	X
Nancy Lawler	Member	X
Sharon Hardy	Member	X
Adam Mickley	Member	No
Kathy Koch	Alternate 1	X
Marty Collett	Alternate 2	No

MEETING MINUTES

Topic	Intent/Materials
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment	<p>Call meeting to order and take roll call.</p> <p>Minutes: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Duckworth at 7:05 PM. In addition to the EOSC members recorded above, Mayor Schmidt was also in attendance.</p>
Presentation of Minutes	<p>Review and approval of January Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Henriksen who was not present at the January meeting.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth asked if there were any comments on the proposed Meeting Minutes from the January meeting. There were none. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ms. Koch, seconded by Ms. Petzinger and unanimously approved.</p>
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Green Acres Program Inspection Report (Duckworth) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Green Acres Inspection Report Letter (Attachment 1) i) NJWSA Ash Tree Remediation (Duckworth) j) LT Open Space Signage (Duckworth) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Boundary Signage b. Hiker Signage k) Red Mill Race Preserve Sign (Henriksen) l) ANJEC membership application m) SJ TCNJ Volunteer Project n) Green Acres Grant <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth stated that resident letters had been mailed since the last meeting. He stated he received a response from a resident who lives near the Schaaf property, complimenting the Township on its stewardship of the land and stating that his family chose that location because of its proximity to the preserved open space.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth also stated that a resident on Shady Lane near the Nicholson properties approached him to express his dissatisfaction with the letter and its restrictions on hunting and ORV use. The resident was not optimistic that those living in his area and who have been using the property for that purpose would cease those activities. He also did not seem aware that the Township was the owner of those properties and that they were no longer privately owned, especially since the names of the properties still reflect the previous owner (e.g. "Nicholson").</p>

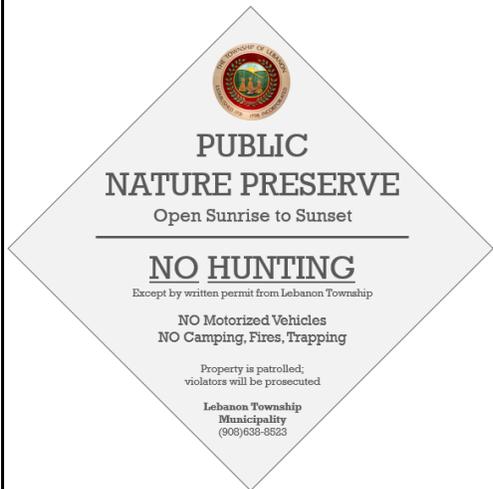
Topic	Intent/Materials
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Ms. Lawler stated that a resident approached her regarding the Fisher property and thought that hunting was an allowed use.

The team discussed these comments and acknowledged that posting the boundaries is a first step and will help clarify ownership and approved uses of the property. It was also stated that the confusion due to the property names should be addressed and drives the need to determine more appropriate names for these properties.

Mr. Duckworth moved the team to the next topic and directed the team to the draft response letter to the Green Acres Inspection Report. The team reviewed the letter and acknowledged it was fine as is but suggested to copy the Township Clerk, Township Committee members and Julie Shelley from NJWSA. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve the letter with these changes. Mr. Henriksen made the motion, Ms. Hardy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Next, Mr. Duckworth presented a concept drawing of an open space boundary sign.



He stated that he had followed up with the County and the signage company that the County uses (Voss Signs in Manilus, NY). Based on a quick check of Miquin Woods, it appears the County posts their property every 50', at least along the roadway. An informal online search turned up some guidelines for posting boundaries in WV and NY, which specified no more than 500' and 660' respectively, but most guidelines simply stated a "reasonable distance".

Mr. Duckworth said he calculated the total perimeter of Township open space and found it to be ~7.5 miles. At this distance, 800 signs would be required if posting every 50' and 162 signs if posting every 250'. After some discussion, the team agreed to assume an approximate posting distance of 200'. The cost per sign if ordering more than 250 would be \$1/sign. It was determined that 250 signs would be a good target.

Mr. Duckworth indicated there were a variety of sign colors to choose from. The team agreed to sticking with white. The question of the proper number to put on the sign was discussed and it was decided that the police non-emergency number that goes to County dispatch during off-hours should be used.

The County representative, Craig Evans, stated that they use the thinnest gauge plastic and the signs hold up very well, usually lasting 6-8 years.

Ms. Petzinger stated that when posting, nails should be left loose to allow for tree growth and that we should factor in the cost of nails. She also said to ask if they could come with pre-punched holes. Mayor Schmidt stated that funding for the signs would come from open space monies with Township Committee approval. Committeeman Laul would present the proposal to Township Committee.

Topic	Intent/Materials
	<p>In relation to the signage conversation, Mayor Schmidt stated that he recently came across signs on stakes that indicate the boundary of a public access easement. He asked if this was something we should consider for the Hendra property. Ms. Hardy stated this could be used for Red Mill Race Preserve, as well. Mr. Duckworth stated that this gets back to the conversation and decision we've made previously that it is the responsibility of the landowner to post their own borders if they so choose. No decision was made regarding this additional signage.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked Mr. Henriksen about the Red Mill Race Preserve sign. Mr. Henriksen stated that he sent photos to the stone carver and that the stone likely weighs between 800 and 1500 lbs. Mr. Henriksen would not be able to bring the stone in and he is waiting on an estimate of the cost to come out and have it done on site.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth indicated that he investigated the Sustainable Jersey volunteer project opportunity and there were no projects that would satisfy the requirement of being linked to an SJ action. Ms. Lawler stated that it would be good to give some feedback to the Sustainable Jersey program as things that are important to rural communities like ours, such as well testing, land preservation and limiting road salt are not recognized as part of their framework.</p> <p>With respect to the Green Acres grant, Mayor Schmidt said that he spoke to conservation partners and has the document we need to fill out. It is a two-page letter. He stated the grant is very competitive now and that we need to identify preservation efforts that are in progress as part of the grant application.</p>
New Business	<p>b) Deer Hunting on Township Open Space Properties (Hardy)</p> <p>Minutes: Ms. Hardy provided some information about the County Parks and Recreation deer management program. They have a requirement to submit a survey at the end of the hunting season. They allow 8 hunters per 226 acres as an example on one of their parcels. The hunting permit is good for one park and hunters are required to take one doe first before a buck.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked if this now means we have committed to pursuing hunting on our open space as previously we had said that we should get the pulse of the community first. Mayor Schmidt said he is comfortable moving forward with this and letting public comment flow through the Township Committee meeting where this would be discussed. Mr. Duckworth suggested that we see if we can limit it to Township Residents or at least give them the first option for a permit.</p> <p>Ms. Koch stated that she and Ms. Hardy attended a Highlands Coalition meeting where they spoke to a number of individuals regarding forest management. A couple of individuals were identified as good potential speakers at a future EOSC meeting, such as Jared Rosenbaum and Sylvia Solaun. Ms. Koch stated she would follow up.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth noted the late time and asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:50PM. Mr. Henriksen made the motion, Ms. Lawler seconded, and it was unanimously approved.</p>
Newsletter	<p>Spring newsletter deadline is February 1st. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well Testing (Koch) • Recycling Best Practices (Laul) • EOSC 2019 YIR/Call for Volunteers (Adam) • Tick Article (Petzinger) <p>Backlog: Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p> <p>Minutes: None</p>

Topic	Intent/Materials
Correspondence	<p>Acknowledge and share any formal correspondence received by EOSC chair or informal correspondence received by EOSC members. All correspondence when possible is scanned and stored digitally in a public access Google Drive folder at https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwaU4TGc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None <p>Minutes: None</p>

February 4, 2019

Mr. Adam Page Taylor
Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program
Mail Code: 501-01
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: Green Acres Inspection Results

Project #: 1019-01-062-1 Open Space Plan – Goracy
1019-01-062-3 Open Space Plan – Nicholson
1019-01-062-4 Open Space Plan – Schaaf
1019-01-062-7 Open Space Plan – Hendra

Dear Mr. Taylor,

This letter is in response to your letter dated July 17th to Lebanon Township Clerk, Karen Sandorse, whereas you outlined the results of Green Acres inspections performed on the above-mentioned properties. We thank you for your continued partnership in land preservation throughout NJ and bringing to our attention the inspection results. Please find below for each project a restatement of the actions you requested and our response.

Goracy

Please have the vegetative and gravel debris removed from the parking area and have the entrance to the trail cleared and marked. I will forward a Green Acres Trail Access sign to post at the trail head.

The Green Acres Trail Access sign has been posted at the trailhead; a picture has been included as Attachment 1. Goracy is a small parcel and work on the trail has been suspended due to other priorities. The Township is pursuing acquisition of a neighboring parcel that would allow for trail connectivity through Goracy to Miquin Woods, a much larger County Park. This initiative is expected to be completed in 2019, at which time work on the Goracy parking area and hiking trail will be resumed and completed. We will follow up with your office later this year when finished.

Nicholson

Please address the use of off-road vehicles on this property and take the necessary steps to stop this activity from occurring. Additionally, please determine if the residence at 971 Flintlock Place is encroaching on encumbered parkland and, if so, remedy the encroachment.

We concur that it appears off-road vehicles have been used on this property and have notified residents that this is not an allowed use. See a copy of the resident letter included as Attachment 2. We have also notified our local police department so that they may patrol the area more often. In addition, we are in the process of clearly marking open

EOSC February Meeting Agenda/Minutes - Attachment 1

space property boundaries with appropriate signage. We will continue to monitor the situation and take further action if required but consider this item closed with no further follow-up required as it relates to this inspection.

With respect to the property encroachment at 971 Flintlock Place and as we post the boundaries in the next few weeks, we will assess whether there is encroachment and notify the property owner accordingly. We will follow up with your office later this year when finished.

Schaaf

Please post a Green Acres sign which I will forward alongside the existing EIFP sign on Bunnvale Road/County Highway 628. Additionally, consider moving the Green Acres and EIFP sign currently on Orchard St. to the location of the informal trailhead on Sun Mountain St. Please investigate the camping area found at the end of the trail to ensure it does not encroach on encumbered parkland.

The Green Acres sign has been posted on Bunnvale Road and other signs moved from Orchard Street to Sun Mountain Street; see Attachment 3 for pictures. The debris referenced in the inspection results has been removed and the source of the debris identified and addressed. The camping area was investigated and determined not to encroach upon encumbered parkland. In addition, a letter was sent to neighboring residents to increase their awareness of this preserved open space. See Attachment 4 for a copy of the resident letter. We consider all items with respect to Schaaf completed at this time.

Hendra

Please relocate the EIFP sign from Lot 19.03 to Lot 19. Additionally, I will be forwarding (2) Green Acres signs to post on each parcel and two (2) Green Acres Trail Access signs to post at each end of the public access easement. See attached map.

The EIFP sign has been relocated and additional four signs have been installed. See Attachment 5 for pictures. We consider all items with respect to Hendra completed at this time.

In summary, we will continue to close out the following actions and follow up with your office once completed:

- Goracy: parking area and trail maintenance
- Schaaf: potential parkland encumbrance at 917 Flintlock Place

We understand you had requested these actions be completed and a response back to your office by August 27, 2018, but that is simply not a reasonable request for a small Township like ours run primarily by volunteers and considering how quickly government entities can operate and the requirement of a public forum for discussion. Rest assured, though, we take these actions seriously and will continue to work diligently to close out any remaining actions in a reasonable timeframe.

Kind Regards,

Adam Duckworth
Chairman, Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

Mike Schmidt
Lebanon Township Mayor & Open Space Coordinator

Attachment 1

Photo showing Green Acres sign, EIFP sign and Green Acres Trail Access sign.



Attachment 2 (Page 1 of 3)
Nicholson/Fisher Resident Letter

Township of Lebanon
Environmental & Open Space
Commission (EOSC)
Municipal Building
530 West Hill Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826-6400

January 7th, 2018

Lebanon Township Resident

Re: Lebanon Township Open Space State Inspection Findings

Dear Resident,

This letter is being sent to you because you live near one or more of the Township Open Space parcels commonly referred to as the Nicholson (Block 49, Lots 89.01 and 89.02) and Fisher (Block 49, Lot 4.02) properties which were recently inspected by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). A map has been attached for your reference. Together, these three parcels make up more than 100 acres of preserved open space in the Spruce Run Watershed, protecting wetlands and drinking water quality, as well as offering passive recreation opportunities, such as hiking and fishing, for our residents.

This land is jointly owned by Lebanon Township and NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) and was purchased with funding from the Green Acres Program and Environmental Infrastructure Finance Program (EIFP). Due to the use of these sources of funding, these parcels periodically undergo state inspection by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP).

In the recent state inspection, evidence of hunting apparatus and use of motorized vehicles was observed on these properties. These activities are not permitted uses of township open space. If you have observed the property being used in this manner, please contact the Lebanon Township Police Department at (908) 638-8516. In addition, it was observed that neighboring private properties may be encroaching upon this protected open space. Please be sure to observe all property boundaries.

Aside from not being permitted, using motorized off-road vehicles (ORVs) on protected lands can be dangerous as well as have negative impacts, such as:

- ORVs may ignite forest fires from either a hot exhaust system and machine parts, or sparks from the exhaust system, coming into contact with dried grass or leaves.
- ORVs, especially 2-stroke engines, can leak fuel that then seeps into the soil and groundwater.
- The tires and undercarriage of ORVs spread seeds of invasive plant species, creating worse habitat for deer and other wildlife.

Attachment 2 (Page 2 of 3)

Nicholson/Fisher Resident Letter

- The noise from ORVs spooks wildlife, especially deer, causing them to run in a panic, even if they are 2,000 yards away! Smaller animals, such as frogs and salamanders, tend to get run over.

With that said, this is public open space and the Township wholeheartedly supports use of this space by our residents for approved passive recreation uses, such as hiking, fishing (with appropriate permits) mountain biking, photography and wildlife observation. Look for improved signage, communication, maps and trail marking in the coming months. Please contact us if you have an interest in volunteering to help with these activities, or if you have any other questions regarding this letter or the Township open space program. Included with this letter is a brochure more broadly outlining our efforts to preserve Lebanon Township's beauty and rural character.

Winding country roads, tree-canopied streets, little stone bridges and countless miles of farms and forests are why many people seek out and set roots in Lebanon Township. Preserving open space and farmland helps ensure the very essence of our Township remains intact for generations to come. Thank you for your help in this journey.

Kind Regards,

Adam Duckworth

Chairman, Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

ltenv@lebtwp.net

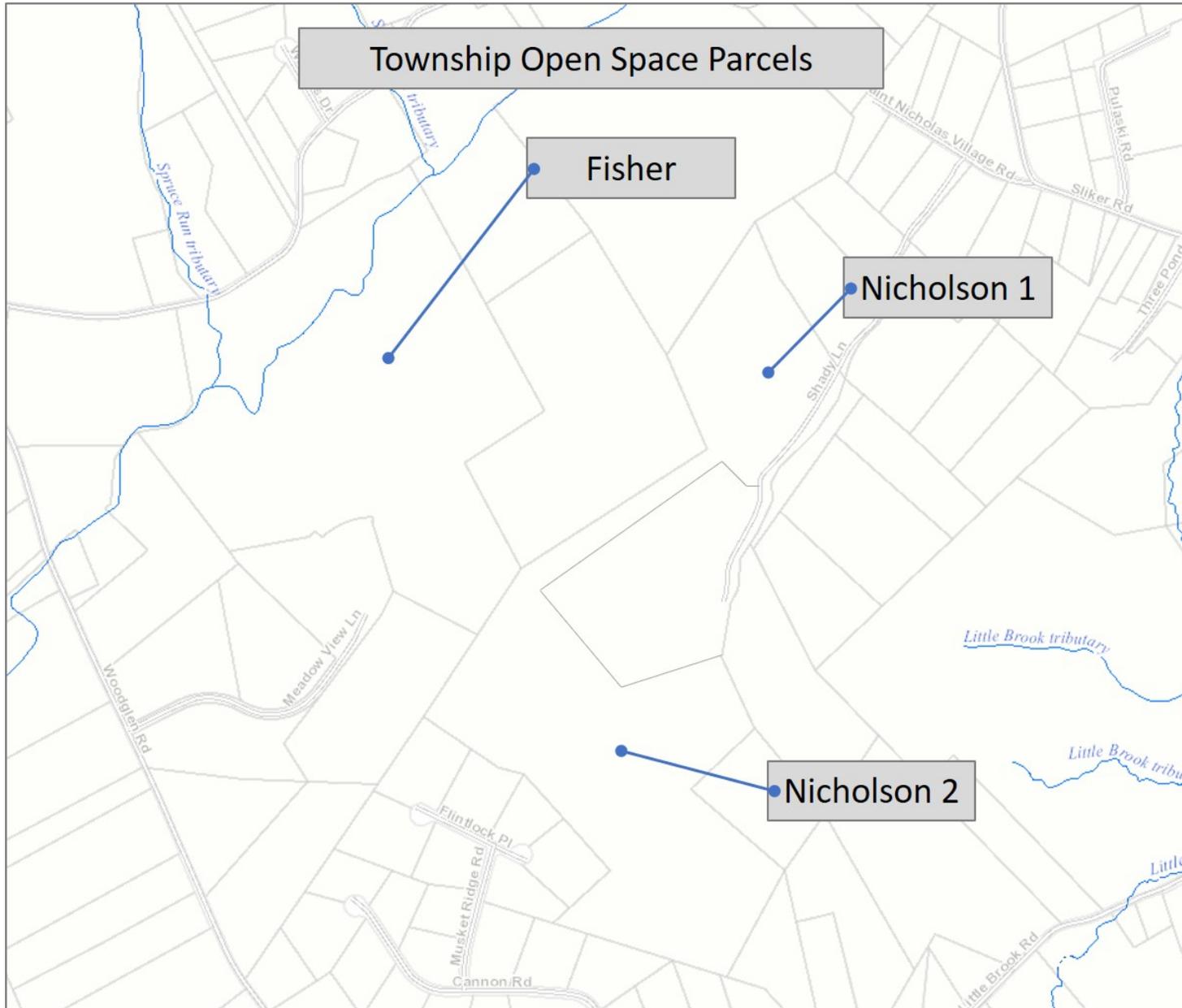
Mike Schmidt

Lebanon Township Mayor and Open Space Coordinator

schmidt@lebtwp.net

cc: Karen Sandorse, Lebanon Township Clerk
Jack Gale, Lebanon Township Chief of Police
Julie Shelley, Property & Permit Administrator, New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Attachment 2 (Page 3 of 3)
Nicholson/Fisher Resident Letter



Attachment 3

Photo showing Green Acres sign installed on Bunnvale Road



Photo showing Green Acres and EIFP signs moved to Sun Mountain Street



Attachment 4 (Page 1 of 3)
Schaaf Resident Letter

Township of Lebanon
Environmental & Open Space
Commission (EOSC)
Municipal Building
530 West Hill Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826-6400

January 7th, 2018

Lebanon Township Resident

Re: Lebanon Township Open Space State Inspection Findings

Dear Resident,

This letter is being sent to you because you live near a Township Open Space parcel commonly referred to as the Schaaf property (Block 24, Lot 2), which was recently inspected by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). A map has been attached for your reference. This parcel constitutes more than 65 acres of preserved open space in the Spruce Run Watershed, protecting wetlands and drinking water quality, as well as offering passive recreation opportunities, such as hiking and fishing, for our residents.

This land is jointly owned by Lebanon Township and NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) and was purchased with funding from the Green Acres Program and Environmental Infrastructure Finance Program (EIFP). Due to the use of these sources of funding, the parcel periodically undergoes state inspection by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP).

In the recent state inspection, debris was found discarded on the property. In addition, a primitive camp site has been established on the border between a neighboring property; camping and fires are not permitted uses of Township Open Space. Other activities that are not permitted include hunting, use of motorized vehicles and illegal dumping. If you observe the property being used in this manner, please contact the Lebanon Township Police Department at (908) 638-8516.

With that said, this is public open space and the Township wholeheartedly supports use of this space by our residents for approved passive recreation uses, such as hiking, fishing (with appropriate permits) mountain biking, photography and wildlife observation. Look for improved signage, communication, maps and trail marking in the coming months. Please contact us if you have an interest in volunteering to help with these activities, or if you have any other questions regarding this letter or the Township open space program. Included with this letter is a brochure more broadly outlining our efforts to preserve Lebanon Township's beauty and rural character.

Winding country roads, tree-canopied streets, little stone bridges and countless miles of farms and forests are why many people seek out and set roots in Lebanon Township. Preserving open

Attachment 4 (Page 2 of 3)
Schaaf Resident Letter

space and farmland helps ensure the very essence of our Township remains intact for generations to come. Thank you for your help in this journey.

Kind Regards,

Adam Duckworth
Chairman, Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission
ltenv@lebtwp.net

Mike Schmidt
Lebanon Township Mayor and Open Space Coordinator
schmidt@lebtwp.net

cc: Karen Sandorse, Lebanon Township Clerk
Jack Gale, Lebanon Township Chief of Police
Julie Shelley, Property & Permit Administrator, New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Attachment 5

Photo showing relocation of EIFP sign and installation of Green Acres sign on Lot 19.



Photo showing installation of Green Acres sign on Lot 19.03.



Attachment 5 (continued)

Photo showing Mt. Airy Road Green Acres Trail Access sign installation.



Photo showing Red Mill Road Green Acres Trail Access sign installation.

