

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mayor Hornik

732 536-0200 x1200

HORNIK UNVEILS OPEN SPACE

Parcel will be Home to New Community Garden

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (June 24, 2013)– Members of the Open Space and Agricultural Committees joined Mayor Jonathan Hornik and representatives from the community on May 7, 2013 to officially unveil and dedicate the Geohegan parcel located on Tennent Road as Marlboro’s newest addition to the State of New Jersey Green Acres program.

The parcel, acquired in 2007, is approximately 3.75 acres and adjacent to the Morganville Fire Company and the Marlboro Little League Complex. The Open Space Committee identified this property as one to protect and preserve and now, working in conjunction with the Shade Tree Committee, has plans to develop a community garden. Initially the site was to be home to a new ball field; however, changing standards in the world of youth baseball rendered the property too small to make this viable. Council Vice President Randi Marder is the Marlboro Township Council liaison to both the Open Space and Shade Tree committees.

“The Shade Tree committee has been enthusiastic about the community garden since we first discussed it two years ago,” stated Marder. “The Open Space Committee has embraced the idea as well and the two groups have agreed to work together to make this vision a reality. I am very excited about the opportunity to establish a community garden in Marlboro, making good use of our already preserved open space. This is a project that will benefit the residents of Marlboro in many ways and I look forward to moving ahead with this project.”

Marlboro Township has applied for a Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) Grant from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Community Forestry Program. The Shade Tree Committee is planning for the first gardening season to begin in spring 2014.

“The Shade Tree Committee's 3 year vision is to have a garden that produces enough produce to donate to local food banks. This space can accommodate a vegetable garden as well as an arboretum. The property has great potential for a variety of uses such as reflecting areas, picnic areas, and cut flower gardens that can be accomplished over time,” said Shade Tree Committee Chairman Jeffrey Weiss.

Mayor Jonathan Hornik stated, “Our Township is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers such as the residents who participate in Open Space and Shade Tree Committees. They bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Township and I am very grateful for their participation. A community garden provides opportunities for camaraderie and exercise while beautifying the land and growing fresh produce to take home to your families. This is a new initiative for Marlboro and I am looking forward to seeing our gardens grow.”

The Open Space committee is chaired by Capt. Shital Rajan and the Vice-Chair is Barbara Stonnell. Committee members include Jack Appel, Harry Cross, Fran Owitz, Dennis Stack and Linda Sullivan. The Agricultural Advisory committee is comprised of Chairwoman Heidi Rajan, Vice-Chairman Tom Chenal and member El Geran.

The Shade Tree committee is comprised of Chairman Jeff Weiss and committee members Mary Eng, Deborah Richards, Tara Jean Vitale, Sherri Cilia, Eric Engel and Patricia Ondar.

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