

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 21, 2014**

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## **MAYOR HORNIK ANNOUNCES OPEN SPACE PURCHASE**

*Parcel Preserves over 16 Acres*

**MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (April 21, 2014)**– Mayor Jonathan Hornik announced at the Township Council meeting that the Township has completed the purchase of Smith Farm property adding more than 16 acres to land preserved in Marlboro Township. This newest addition to the State of New Jersey Green Acres program is located at 403 Tennent Road, bordering Tennent and Church Roads.

In a letter to the Mayor, Council and Business Administrator, the Marlboro Open Space Committee recommended this property for open space preservation. Captain Shital Rajan, Chair of the Open Space committee wrote, “Due to its scenic landscape of woods and open fields, proximity to two schools and residential areas, and high visibility, my committee and I highly recommend the Smith Farm for preservation as open space.”

In addition to dedicated Township open space funds, Marlboro Township applied for and was awarded a grant from the Monmouth County Open Space Program in the amount of \$250,000 towards the purchase. In addition, the Township is utilizing New Jersey Green Acres funds for 50% of the cost of acquisition and eligible engineering and closing costs.

“This purchase will ensure that more than 16 acres near busy intersections and schools are protected from development forever,” stated Mayor Jonathan Hornik. “The Open Space committee has been a partner with my administration in aggressively pursuing open space opportunities and I want to thank Captain Rajan and the committee for their dedication.”

Since 2007, Marlboro has preserved more than 220 acres for residents to enjoy. Monmouth County preserved several hundred acres in the vicinity of Harbor Road and the Marlboro Airport and the township, helping to further this effort, has preserved more than 67 acres in that area alone with the purchase of Peppadew, Baymar and Penksa Farms. Dedicated in 2013, Geohegan Farm located on Tennent Road will be the future home of Marlboro’s Community Garden. With these parcels and others throughout the township, Marlboro continues its ongoing commitment to preserve open space and protect land from development.

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.

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