



Board of County Commissioners

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Susan J. Soloway, Director

Susan.soloway@co.hunteron.nj.us

Matt Holt, Commissioner

jmholt@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon County Grant Will Help Preserve Seventy-One-Acre Frenchtown Property

The seventy-one-acre Thompson property located near Creek Road and the hilltop streets neighborhood in Frenchtown is on its way to being preserved as open space, thanks to a \$500,000 Open Space Acquisition Grant approved by Hunterdon County's Commissioners, at its August 17th meeting.

Board of Commissioners Director Susan J. Soloway stated, "The property is a natural for preservation as it is adjacent to existing parkland owned by the Borough and contains a tributary of the Nishisakwick Creek which is currently designated as a C-1 stream."

The County funding comes from Hunterdon's Open Space Trust Fund. Frenchtown has also received approval from the state Green Acres program for a grant that will fund 50% of the preservation cost.

Commissioner Matt Holt, the Board's liaison for Planning and Land Use, noted, "Joint funding of preservation projects is always welcomed as a key resource for extending County open space fund dollars.

Additionally, the Commissioners are very aware that there was concern among Frenchtown residents that the site was ripe for development. We were fortunate to have the New Jersey Conservation Foundation working with the Borough and County in negotiating the acquisition of the property. Preservation of this tract of land is an important step in protecting clean water for future generations."

Frenchtown Council President Michele Liebttag noted, "Preservation of this tract of land has been goal of the Borough of Frenchtown for over two decades. We are happy that the Borough was able to work collaboratively with the Commissioner Board, POSAC, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Green Acres to make this land preservation goal a reality. The acquisition of this property effectively creates a Green Belt around Frenchtown which will be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike."

The property, consisting of woodlands and farmland, was recommended to be preserved by the Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC).