



ANNUAL REPORT *(July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009)*

FAIRFAX OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

16 Park Road, Fairfax

August 25, 2009

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Mimi Newton - Chair

Michael Ardito	Denise Ferry
Ted Bright	Ruth Horn
Barbara Coler	Jack Judkins
Niccolo Caldararo	Ryan O'Neil – Co-Chair
Helen Fauss	Jane Richardson-Mack

To: The Fairfax Town Council
From: The Fairfax Open Space Committee
Re: Annual Report for Period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Below are some of the highlights from the Fairfax Open Space Committee's (FOSC's) efforts over the past year. We are very excited about the progress we continue to make in terms of raising funds for and consciousness about Open Space issues in our Town.

Fundraising Activities:

- FOSC members joined Laura Honda's 4th Grade class at the Manor School selling raffle tickets for the quilt created by the children with the proceeds going to benefit Fairfax Open Space.
- By late fall 2008, FOSC issued our annual Newsletter to Fairfax residents.
- We raised Open Space funds selling t-shirts and other items (baked goods, crafts) at the 2008 Eco Fest, the 2008 Good Festival and at the 2008 Fairfax picnic.
- The Fairfax Eco Fest Committee made a sizeable presentation to FOSC from proceeds of the June 2008 Eco Fest wine tasting.
- We designed and ordered FOSC Organic t-shirts for sale in 2009.
- We raised Open Space funds selling t-shirts and other items (baked goods, candy, crafts) at the 2009 Eco Fest.

Open Space Acquisition/Preservation Actions:

- We continued working with the Town to help ensure continued access to the Egger Grove in the Cascade neighborhood through the easement across the Berg property. FOSC developed sign language and attempted to reach solutions with Mr. Berg prior to Town legal action.
- FOSC continued discussions throughout much of 2008 with landowner Ben Ross regarding property he was interested in selling to the Town as Open Space. In the spring, FOSC representatives met with County Supervisor Hal Brown and secured financial assistance to fund an independent appraisal of the property.

- FOSC made several attempts to meet with Dr. Wall's representatives regarding the Wall Property; all were unsuccessful.
- Jolly Hill – Taylor Ave. neighbors had raised concerns about the five-sided town-owned lot by Bennett House at the base of the Wall Property, known as Jolly Hill. In March, the FOSC met at Jolly Hill and pulled scotch broom for a few hours in the morning before settling in for a picnic brunch/ meeting. The committee also designed and installed a sign at Jolly Hill and for use in other open spaces.
- FOSC continued to locate and visit and identify Town owned Open Space properties.
- We requested and obtained Town Council approval to acquire two properties through tax delinquency process for use as open space. The committee voted unanimously to seek the Fairfax Town Council's approval, regarding purchase of two lots that may be up for auction as tax delinquent properties. Both are adjacent to or in the middle of other open space or undeveloped. FOSC has sufficient funds to purchase both (~\$15,000 total). Activities are underway to acquire the properties if the owners do not pay the taxes.

Fairfax General Plan Update:

- In the spring, FOSC began having two members participate on the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) subcommittee formed to rewrite the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan.

Town of Fairfax Actions:

- We provided oral testimony and written comments at a Town Council meeting and Saturday Town Charette meeting regarding proposed changes to zoning codes to accommodate mixed use overlay and explained the Visually Distinctive Areas and Scenic Corridors mandated under the Conservation Element of the Fairfax General Plan.

Liaison/Networking/Coordination Actions:

- We continued meeting with members of the newly formed Marin Open Space Trust (MOST) who are helping us strategize options for acquiring Open Space lands within the Fairfax Planning Area.
- We held a joint meeting in August to share ideas and common goals with the San Anselmo Open Space Committee.
- The FOSC Chair attended the County Board of Supervisor's meeting to encourage the County to adopt an Open Space tax to help in the acquisition of open space throughout Marin. The Board decided to put such a tax off for another year.