

**Pennington Park Green Acres Loan  
Bond Ordinance  
Public Hearing  
November 9, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Memo to: Delanco Residents**

**From: Kate Fitzpatrick, Mayor**

Please be advised that the Township Committee will be voting on a Bond requirement in order to obtain the Green Acres Loan of \$300,000 (the development loan) that was granted to the Township.

**Background**

Several years ago, the township and County agreed to an open space land exchange that would give the township property at Pennington Park. While the legal process to finalize the acquisition was underway, the township submitted a development plan to Green Acres based on the original concept plan for the Pennington Park property. The grant was actually more of a low interest loan, and would have required Delanco to contribute \$600,000. This amount had two components: a \$300,000 direct payment by the town, plus a \$300,000 low interest loan from Green Acres. We did not accept the terms of the loan because we did not own the property at that time.

The legal process to secure the property took much longer than expected and was not completed until a few months ago.

As time went by it was evident that the Township was not in a position to match the loan of \$300,000 and that we needed to craft a more modest proposal. Members of the Recreation Commission and DYSA met to review the lay of the land and determined that the need for soccer fields was a priority. A plan for these fields was submitted and accepted by Green Acres. We received confirmation that Green Acres would grant Delanco a \$300,000 loan at 2% interest. This time, the township will not have to provide the additional \$300,000 in matching funds.

This loan will be repaid through the Township's Dedicated Open Space Tax Fund. The annual loan payment will be approximately \$20,000 per year. *It will have no impact on local taxes.* We collect \$100,000 per year in Open Spaces taxes, so there still will be a source of funding for new open space projects in the future.

To obtain the loan, Green Acres requires that the town authorize a Bond Ordinance, to certify that the Township has the capacity to bond for that amount. There are no additional costs for granting this Bond Ordinance.

Please come to this meeting and voice your opinion. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 856-764-9321.