

Greeting:

Mayor Sharfenberger, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray, members of the Township Committee.

My name is Elaine Hinckley and I am President of the Poricy Park Conservancy Board of Trustees.

With me this evening are the officers: Peter Van Nortwick, Vice President, Victoria Massa Treasurer, David Waite Secretary and the other Trustees.

We are here this evening because of the Mission of Poricy Park Conservancy which is preserve and enrich the park as a nature preserve and to educate the community about its historic and recreational resources.

A number of years ago a bequest was made to the Conservancy by the will of Anne Haskell Ellis for \$25,000. The endowment was invested and it has grown to \$36,000. The Conservancy has presented a check for \$36,000 to the Township CFO Coleen Lapp so that it can be combined with Capital Funds and a grant from Sustainable New Jersey to build a Pavilion at Poricy Park. This facility will serve as an outdoor classroom, a venue for possible concerts and for programs in keeping with our mission.

The Conservancy has been in contact with the Ellis family and they are very pleased to learn that their bequest will be put to good use. The Ellis and Haskell families have long been promoters of historic and natural preservation in Middletown. The Pavilion will have a plaque with the name of John C. Ellis, a former resident who was killed in a plane crash at Newark airport in 1970 along with his brother-in-law Mr. Haskell. The Ellis and Haskell families are well known in Middletown and their names appear on many preserved acres and facilities. Mr. Ellis was also a founder of the Navesink Country Club on Navesink River Road and the adjoining Ellis farm has been preserved by the Monmouth Conservation Foundation.

It is with great pleasure that the Poricy Park Conservancy gives this contribution to Middletown Township so that the Community will be able to enjoy many new programs in keeping with its mission. We have an excellent working relationship with the Township, the Department of Public Works and the Recreation Department. We are all constantly researching additional donations and grants to enhance this facility. Thanks also to Amy Saranikalou and Janet Delette who were instrumental in acquiring the last piece of the package, the Sustainable Jersey grant for \$20,000 which will put a "Live Roof" on the Pavilion making it an unusual showplace and one which is anxiously awaited by the grant providers.