

# Mattioli helps Mt. Pocono preserve the Knob

by Pattie Hughes

Two long-standing issues were resolved at the October 5 meeting of Mount Pocono Borough Council. The first was the purchase of a piece of property in the area known as the Knob Overlook.

Council held a public hearing on September 21 and opinions were divided, due to the lack of available Open Space Funding. Dr. Joseph Mattioli read about the funding problem in the paper and came to the rescue.

Mattioli had visited the area in the past and, according to President John Finnerty, "hated to see the property lost." Mattioli offered to lend the Borough the \$387,000 needed to purchase the property for a period of 18 months, with no interest or payments until the loan matures.

This generous offer would

allow Mount Pocono to purchase the property and repay the loan when Open Space funding becomes available. Because this property has previously been identified as a desirable Open Space acquisition, grant approval is almost certain.

Council voted to accept the offer, with only council member Martin Waldenberger voting against the measure. Waldenberger stated as his reason, "Consistency, because I voted against it last time."

The next step is to have an agreement drawn up by the attorneys and an ordinance adopted to comply with the Local Government Unit Debt Act.

The second issue resolved at the meeting was land development approval for the Greenspring development. Greenspring is a 55 and older

community planned for Route 611 opposite Grange Road, near the Municipal Authority.

The developer began the process in 2003, which resulted in a denial by Council and an appeal in court. The settlement agreement, reached in 2004, contained various conditions for approval. These conditions were addressed in the final plan.

Attorney Ralph Matergia was present on behalf of the developer, along with Tom Kelso of Castle Valley Consultants. Kelso addressed concerns regarding the wastewater treatment plant that is planned for Paradise Township to handle sewage from the development.

The treatment plant uses a new technology that involves a series of trenches and the use

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