

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
October 4, 2007

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:10 P.M. Chairman John Mathieu was absent, Mayor and member James Burke read the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirements

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this committee or Board, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over talk. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Notification of the time, date and place of this meeting has been published in the Delaware Valley News and Express Times and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, as has been posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building at least 48 hours prior to this meeting and has been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present - Sal DeSapio, Chairman
William Pandy

Absent - Elaine Niemann

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - James Burke, Mayor
Marge Augustine
Sandra McNicol

Absent - John Mathieu, Chairman

Also present at the meeting were Attorney David Pierce, Open Space/Farmland Coordinator Liz Schmid and Secretary Cynthia Brown.

Resignation letter from Well Search Coordinator Anthony Hauck. Discussed on previous page.

Well Search Coordinator Anthony Hauck has resigned his position with the Township as a member of the Open Space Advisory Committee and as Well Search Coordinator. He expressed that he is no longer needed since a well ordinance has now been adopted. Mr. Hauck submitted a letter of resignation to the Township Committee and the Open Space Advisory Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

Press release from the H.C.P.B - Public Hearing Oct 11, 2007

James Burke read aloud a press release from the Hunterdon County Planning Board - a public hearing to be taken place on October 11, 2007 to discuss the Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan and the future of farmland preservation in the County.

REPORTS

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

A letter to Pam Their, Program Development Specialist with the Green Acres Program, NJ Department of Environmental Protection from Mayor James Burke. The Township is requesting to apply for additional Green Acres Funding for our Planning Incentive Grant in order to continue preservation efforts in our planning area. A copy was given to all members.

Liz Schmid explained the update of the application for the PIG Grant. She stated she is waiting for a second appraisal at this point. Ms. Schmid reported that a new application for a PIG grant would not extend the old grant. Ms. Schmid will be in contact with the County.

Ms. Schmid also discussed speaking with several owners of properties in Kingwood Township who are interested in preservation.

Ms. Schmid explained that there is a member of the Agriculture Advisory Committee that may be interested in preserving their property. It was discussed whether this member should resign from the committee while going through the process. Liz explained that they would have to resign when the application is submitted, then once the process is completed they would be able to return as an active member. She will have this information within the next month.

Ms. Schmid would like the tax assessor to provide her with copies of every parcel in the Township. Mr. Burke suggested that she contact Kevin Richardson at the County. Ms. Schmid explained that Margaret Waldo met with Ben Avila, who may be interested in preserving his property. There was a discussion whether to have a special meeting to talk about these properties. It was agreed by all to look into this further.

OLD BUSINESS

J. Burke presented a map to everyone. It was a map of the Ukarish Farm located on Union Road and Route 519. The map was a layout of all the wetland areas on the property. There was a lengthy discussion on the possibility of selling the preserved farm area and whether it would be possible to build a structure on the property, and the fact that it may be difficult to have access onto the property due to wetlands.

William Pandy expressed that the property may not be worth all that much if determined a wetlands area.

The Committee's reviewed the wetlands map of the Ukarish property. They discussed the possibilities of where a building would be able to be put up around the wetlands.

It was moved by Marge Augustine, seconded by James Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M. due to a power outage. **All** voted **AYE** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Brown
Secretary