

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
November 1, 2007

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:03 P.M. Chairman John Mathieu 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
Elaine Niemann, Committeewoman

Absent - N/A

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - John Mathieu, Chairman
James Burke, Mayor
Marge Augustine
Sandra McNicol

Absent - N/A

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

REPORTS

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

Liz Schmid discussed what is needed to apply for a PIG grant. She stated that it is important to state how it will be funded. The Property on Daniel Bray Hwy. Block 14, Lot 27, the Cooley family, may be interested in preserving 30 acres of their property. Then eventually selling the rest to a developer. There is a total of 130 acres. It was noted that the front part is farmable. The State is willing to buy it and preserve the land. Liz Schmid will contact D.E.P. Greenacres Representative Pam Thier, and have the Cooley's fill out an application for the front property. John Mathieu suggested asking Pam Thier if the Cooley's would be interested in buying a conservation easement.

Mayor Burke handed out a sample resolution, which was done in November of 2000. The Open Space Committee reviewed the resolution.

In was noted in order to be preserved, the land has to be in an ADA area. Liz explained two farms that are in the ADA area who are interested in preserving their land. Ben Avila on Rt. 519 and Heidi Trestensky on Rt. 651.

John Mathieu noted that he spoke with Director of the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance Margaret Waldock about the Faller Property Block 41, Lot 9 (114 acres). He said it is currently list for sale. The property is not in a ADA area. John Mathieu would like to see it made a ADA area. Sal DeSapio asked what is an ADA area and what is not. John Mathieu feels we should find out what the criteria is for ADA area.

Liz Schmid explained that the Committee must determine three farms that are interested and do it before this years end in order to get a PIG grant.

He explained that there may be a possibility of preserving the Faller Property without using any money from the Township, State or anyone else. John Mathieu, Margaret Waldock, and Liz Schmid will be getting together to put together a proposal and present it to a prospective buyer.

Discussion continued on:
Letter to the Township Committee - Bonding for Open Space
Acquisition

John Mathieu discussed a letter he drafted to the Township Committee asking them if the Township could use the annual proceeds of the open space tax to support bonding for open space preservation acquisitions. He would like the Open Space Committees opinion of the draft letter and if they have any thoughts or changes.

Mayor Burke reviewed a meeting with the representatives from The Habitat for Humanity, and also took them on a tour of the Ukarish property. He noted that they are very interested in putting up low income housing on the Ukarish property. Mayor Burke explained to them that the Township's concept for the Round Three certification plan for COAH was to build housing for low income on this property. The Habitat for Humanity would put 3, 4, or 7 low income houses on the 7 acres. Mayor Burke reviewed and described the three types of homes they have presented. He also reviewed a draft site plan of the property. The septic and wells were also discussed. A wetlands photo map was reviewed and it was discussed where the best place would be to build the homes. John Mathieu feels that the tower nearby is a drawback to the homes and feels it may be better to build closer to Route 519. It was noted that there is wetlands in that area and the Township is unable to build in the wetlands areas. Mayor Burke asked the Attorney several questions on what he thinks the Township should do next. David Pierce responded and said that the Engineer should draw up a two acre driveway and then take the drawing to Kevin Richardson at the County to review. Mayor Burke stated that the Habitat for Humanity is willing to work with the Township.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by John Mathieu and carried to send the proposed draft letter to the Township Committee for support of a bond acquisition.

All voted AYE on Roll Call Vote.

Secretary Brown will prepare the letter, John Mathieu to sign and give to the Township Committee to discuss at their next meeting on November 5, 2007.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Burke discussed the Equestrian Villiage. He explained that there is another offer and he will be meeting with them on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by James Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 P.M. **All** voted **AYE** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Brown
Secretary