

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
February 7, 2008

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:00 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.

ROLL CALL

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present - Sal DeSapio
Elaine Niemann, Committeewoman
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent - None

Open Space Advisory Committee

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

Absent - None

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

Reorganize for 2008 Agriculture Advisory Committee

Nomination for Chairperson for Agriculture Advisory

It was moved by William Pandy, seconded by Elaine Niemann and carried to Nominate Sal DeSapio for Chairperson for the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Roll Call Vote:	AYE	- Elaine Niemann
		- William Pandy
		- Cynthia Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	ABSTAIN	- Sal DeSapio
	ABSENT	- NONE

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Agriculture Advisory

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to Nominate William Pandy for Vice Chairperson for the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Roll Call Vote:	AYE	- Elaine Niemann
		- Sal DeSapio
		- Cynthia Niciecki
	Nay	- None
	ABSTAIN	- William Pandy
	ABSENT	- None

Motion and approval from the Agriculture Advisory Committee for scheduled meeting dates for 2008

It was moved by Elaine Niemannn, seconded by William Pandy and carried to approve the meeting dates for the year 2008 for the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE	- Sal DeSapio
	- Elaine Niemann
	- William Pandy
	- Cynthia Niciecki
NAY	- None
ABSTAIN	- None
ABSENT	- None

Motion and approval from the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the local newspapers-(Delaware Valley News and the Express times) for advertisements

It was moved by Elaine Niemannn, seconded by William Pandy and carried to approve the local new papers for the year 2008 for the Agriculture Advisory Committee for advertisements and notices.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE	- Sal DeSapio
	- Elaine Niemann
	- William Pandy
	- Cynthia Niciecki
NAY	- None
ABSTAIN	- None
ABSENT	- None

Approval of Minutes

Motion and approval from the Open Space Advisory Committee for the January 3, 2008 Reorganization Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by James Burke and carried to adopt the minutes of the January 3, 2008 Open Space Advisory Committee Reorganization Meeting Minutes with the following corrections:

Under Open Space Advisory Committee on the first page Corrections are as followed:

- James Burke - Mayor - should be (Deputy Mayor)
- Marge Augustine - (Mayor) following name

Roll Call Vote:	AYE	-John Mathieu
		-James Burke
		-Marge Augustine
		-Sandra McNicol
		-Richard Dodds
	NAY	-None
	ABSTAIN	-None
	ABSENT	-None

Correspondence

Copy of Ordinance No. 15-03-2008 Amending Ordinance No. 7405 "Agriculture Advisory Committee of the Township of Kingwood adopted on February 4, 2008

Chairman John Mathieu reviewed the ordinance that was adopted at the Township Committee meeting, changing the amount of members on the Agriculture Advisory Committee from a three member committee to a five member committee. The members will be seeking an addition member.

Copy of Ordinance No. 15-04-2008 Amending Section 32-5 "Open Space Advisory Committee of the Township of Kingwood adopted on February 4, 2008

Chairman John Mathieu reviewed the ordinance that was adopted at the Township Committee meeting, changing the amount of members on the Open Space Advisory Committee from a five member committee to a seven member committee. The members will be seeking addition members.

Reports

PIG Progress: Liz Schmidt

James Burke asked what the progress was as far as expanding the PIG.

Liz responded.

At this time the Committees split into their own meetings.

Page#5

Old Business

Draft Farmland Preservation Plan

The Agriculture Advisory Committee met to discuss the draft.

New Business

Planning Board Application (Honeymar - Block 26, Lot 4)
Revised Amended Minor Subdivision Plan
Two Plats for your review available on table

John Mathieu briefly reviewed. Attorney D. Pierce stated there is nothing to discuss at this time.

Agriculture Advisory Committee's priorities for 2008

The Agriculture Advisory Committee met to discuss their priorities.

Smart Growth Grant for the 2008 - Smart Future Planning Grants. Application deadline is February 29, 2008

John Mathieu reviewed a meeting that was held with the Technical Review Committee for the Smart Growth grant. He stated that many municipalities were interested to learn more about the grant. Mr. Mathieu stated that he sent an e-mail to Trenton to obtain a clarification of the grant. He explained that the Township could apply for a Smart Growth grant up to \$50,000 dollars. To be eligible for the grant it was required that a representative from the Township attend the Technical Review Committee meeting in Trenton at the D.C.A. Building. Angela Clerico, Township Planner attended. Also from the Township Planning Board, Richard Dodds attended, who was the representative for the Township.

Richard Dodds discussed what was reviewed at the meeting. He explained that there is 1.5 million dollars being given out in grants, and there are 586 towns in N.J. About thirty grants will be given out in N.J. He explained they are all planning grants, and can only be spent on staff that would do planning.

Page#6

He explained there are six areas, and of the six areas they are as follows: 1). Community visioning, 2). Agriculture retention and farmland preservation, 3). Transit oriented design, 4). Reconnecting your community, 4). Urban T.D.R., and 5). Neighbor planning.

Mr. Dodds noted that each Township may only apply for one Grant. Angela Clerico will be looking into community visioning for Kingwood Township, which would go towards the master plan. The deadline has been moved to March 31, 2008, and the application must be started by March 28, 2008. Angela Clerico to fill out application for the Township.

James Burke reported on the Horseshoe Bend property. He explained it is progressing. Also that there was a meeting on the property with the County and a Freeholder to review the area. He explained that no agreements have been signed as of this time. It will be about five to six months for the closing.

The Committee reviewed several properties that are in the process of being preserved.

James Burke reviewed information on the Melnick property. He stated that it will take about twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars to work on getting the home on the property repaired and livable to rent. He stated it could be a liability for the Township in its present condition. He explained there are many different possibilities for the property and the home. The Melnick property is 71 acres with the Township owning 10 acres. The well for the house is shared with the Township garage. There were some questions to Attorney Pierce about the property being preserved and partly being owned by the Township. The Township Committee would like to reach out to the community and let them know that this property will always be a farm and never developed.

CORRESPONDENCE

N/A

Page#7

James Burke reviewed the Ukarish Property.

Richard Dodds explained that the Hunterdon Land Trust obtained their grant from the William Penn Foundation to do a Stewardship program. It is to develop a five year Stewardship plan along the Delaware River in Hunterdon County.

It was moved by Mr. Burke, seconded by Mrs. McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. **All** present voted **AYE** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Brown
Secretary