

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

May 1, 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 also been posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building at least 48 hours prior to this meeting and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present - Elaine Niemann, Committeewoman
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent - Sal DeSapio (Arrived at 8:15 P.M.)

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - John Mathieu, Chairman
James Burke, Deputy Mayor
Marge Augustine, Mayor
Sandra McNicol
Richard Dodds (Arrived 8:08 P.M.)

Absent - None

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The Nishisackawick runs north of the tract and the Little Nishisackawick runs south of the tract of property owned by Middleton/Ramirez. It is a combined acreage totaling 60 acres in Kingwood and 29 acres in Alexandria. Margaret noted that the landowners are willing to go ahead.

Ms. Waldock is trying to reach the owners of tract along Thatcher Road (west side). It was discussed that the Pandys do some farming for them and they may be able to obtain some contact information for Margaret.

There were comments from some of the Committee members. Sal DeSapio and William Pandy noted that there is good quality of soil at the Middleton/Ramirez lot and they think it would be a good idea to look at possible farmland preservation.

Old Business

Kingwood Township Conservation Plan Element - Revised Draft

Sandra McNicol explained that Angela Clerico's office has a draft revision and the final draft will be at the next Planning Board meeting.

Open Space and Recreation Plan - Master Plan

Sandra McNicol explained that they are not ready to review at this time.

Continue review of current Farm Stand Ordinance

John Mathieu stated that we need to look into the future and decide what we want to have in Kingwood. He thinks we ought to encourage more farm stands in the town, but we need to prevent there from being additional farm stands of the magnitude of the farm stand on Route 519.

Jim Burke discussed the ratio of a farm market size to the amount of land and how to determine appropriateness.

It was discussed that the volume of goods produced locally must be at 51%, but not sure how the Township will do this determination.

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The Agriculture Advisory members commented that our soils are not suited to fruits and vegetable crops.

Liz Schmidt suggested that when changes are made to the ordinance they should go through the Agriculture Advisory Committee so that the Township is certain not to inadvertently impair farming activities.

John Mathieu gave a summary of items to be considered: (1). The size of the building. (2) To require farmland assessment each year.

Margaret Augustine suggested to have two ordinances, one for a farm stand and the another for a farm market.

The Agriculture Advisory Committee will recommend to the Planning Board to review to the amend the ordinance for their June meeting.

Smart Growth Planning Grant Application

Sandra McNicol noted that is in the works.

Public Comments

Liz Schmidt said that the County Agriculture Development Board feels that farms need to be checked once a year to confirm farming or at least mowing taking place. She noted that the Fadal family at the end of Slacktown Road near Pittstown Road is interested in preserving. The Agriculture Advisory members stated that this land is very wet.

Elaine Niemann reported that the Hunterdon County Planning Board held an open space analysis meeting. She will be contacting the County Planning Board to gather more information.

It was moved by Mr. Burke, seconded by Mrs. McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 P.M. **All present voted AYE on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary(absent)
(Elaine Niemann took
minutes of the meeting)**