

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:45 P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on January 15th, 2009, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger , and the Express Times on January 8, 2009. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 8, 2009.

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, and further, all persons are ,the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ROLL CALL

Open Space Advisory Committee

**Present - John Mathieu
 Phil Lubitz
 Sandra McNicol
 Richard Dodds
 Lee Frank**

Absent - James Burke (arrived at 7:53pm)

2.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present: Elaine Niemann
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent: None

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2009 Regular meeting minutes for the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees and place on file.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- John Mathieu, Sandra McNicol, Lee Frank, Phil Lubitz, Cindy Niciecki, William Pandy, Elaine Niemann
Nay	- None
Absent	- James Burke
Abstain	- Richard Dodds

CORRESPONDENCE

Attendees for Farmland Status Meeting/March 18, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed. She noted that Liz Schmid was at the meeting for Kingwood.

Reports

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

Liz Schmid was unable to attend this evening. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol read aloud a memo Liz left for everyone. The Felix Farm and application in the PIG is proceeding and we have been apply for Federal Farm and Ranch Land Funds through the State, however, the last time the Federal Government pulled that money. The State is still trying to find funds to cover part of the farm. The Augustine farm has been signed off for closing, but the State is still working on minor technicalities, and it should close very soon. The Crouse property is still in the works for later this year.

3.

OLD BUSINESS

Stormwater Runoff on farm fields - Update from Bill Pandy

William Pandy reported speaking to Tom Decker the Township's Engineer. Things were still frozen up and wanted to wait to see when ground thaws. Mr. Pandy will be in contact with Tom Decker to go look at run off next week sometime.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activities Update

Kingwood Township Board of Adjustment - Clark Property public hearing

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that the Clark Property will be having it public hearing on Wednesday, April 8, 2009. She noted that they had their completeness review in March. Sandra noted that the Land Trust is hoping that after the meeting in April, they will then be able to proceed to closing. Sandra explained that the as far as the Haring property, Kate Buttolph explained that the Haring property was approved by CADB for cost share and still trying to find other funding. The Polopoly, and Clinton property contracts are in final attorney review. Kate Buttolph said she has a signed contract for two of the Trstensky lots.

Richard Dodds reviewed the Clark property, by a large GIS map. There was a brief discussion on the right of ways on the property. He pointed out the areas of land the Hunterdon Land Trust will be acquiring and preserving. There will be a Public Hearing for the Clark Property on April 8, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Open Space Funds - Memo from the CFO, Diane Laudenbach

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the memo from C.F.O. Diane Laudenbach. James Burke explained each line item. The following is a summary of open space funds:

4.

To: Open Space Committee

From: Diane Laudenschick, CFO

Date: March 9, 2009

Re: Open Space Funds

At the request of C. Keller, please find the following information:

Banked with the County	\$ 32,136.43
County Money for 15-18-2008	\$ 104,049.62 (Encumbered for Block 14, Lots 28.02 & 30)
2009 Tax for Open Space	\$ 211,472.40
Balance in Open Space Trust	\$ 49,334.31 (as of 1/31/09)
Bond Ordinance – 15-18-08	\$ 197,871.63 (Encumbered for Block 14, Lots 28.02 & 30)
Bond Ordinance – 14-23-2007	\$1,000,000.00
Bond Ordinance – 15-12-2008	\$ 965,000.00
Resolution No. 2008-151	\$ 535,000.00 (Encumbered and/or Expended 14/21.03, 12/19, 5/2, 26/25, 4/2)
Annual Bond/Interest Payment	\$ 200,000.00 (estimated)

5.

Suggestion for New Members

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol asked everyone to keep thinking of members.

Preservation Signs - discussion: size, wording, materials

It was suggested to take a picture of other preservation signs from other towns. John Mathieu and Richard Dodds will be taking pictures to get an idea sign that can be designed and installed on preserved properties in Kingwood Township.

NEW BUSINESS

Hike - Flagg Property

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed a flyer that she prepared that was handed out to all the members. It described the date, location, time, rain date and what to wear. This will be sent to be put on the web site. It will also be on the counter in the municipal building. Sandra McNicol, Richard Dodds, and John Mathieu offered to go on a pre-hike before May 2, to get an idea of where to go on that day. Richard Dodds reviewed the Flagg property on the GIS map for everyone. He also reviewed two other properties on Horseshoe Bend Road, the Equestrian Village and Deer Run.

Sandra McNicol noted that she would like to make signs for the hike and put them up at the end of Fairview Road.

Richard Dodds reviewed a hike he took in Frenchtown Boro. Mr. Dodds explained that the focus is to have communities work together as a stewardship program working to keep up the properties. He would like to see fish and game involved.

James Burke gave an update on the Equestrian Village. The Committee members thanked Mr. Burke for all of his hard work and efforts.

Trail Development - Lockatong Wildlife Management Area

Richard Dodds reviewed over the screen several properties in the area.

6.

Kingwood Township Website - Information on bonding for Open Space/Farmland Preservation

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that she has taken on the project and is in the process of learning more about it, and will be working on it in the future.

Windmills

Sandra McNicol explained that a man came to the Planning Board meeting and asked about windmills in the Township. She wanted to share the information with the Agriculture Advisory Committee, and to find out if they have any knowledge of any information they may have heard about the windmills.

It was noted that Sandra McNicol will be the member to coordinate the hike for Saturday, May 2, 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by John Mathieu and carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M.
All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia Keller, RMC
Secretary**