

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:40 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
	James Burke
	Phil Lubitz
	Sandra McNicol
	Richard Dodds
	Lee Frank
	Linda Pfingst Oesterwinter
Absent -	None

2.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present: Elaine Niemann
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent: None

Following Roll Call the Committee members welcomed new member, Linda Pfingst Oesterwinter to the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the minutes of the April 2, 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, James Burke, Richard Dodds, Cindy Niciecki, William Pandy, Elaine Niemann
	Nay	- None
	Absent	- None
	Abstain	- Linda Pfingst Oesterwinter

CORRESPONDENCE

Attendees for Farmland Status Meeting/April 15, 2009

Liz Schmid attended the meeting and explained that nothing new is happening at this time.

Reports

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

The following is a Farmland Report from Liz Schmid for May, 2009:

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Liz Schmid gave an overview of the Planning Incentive Grant and the Farmland Preservation Grant. Richard Dodds presented to the members, a G.I.S. Map of all the properties and the locations of each.

OLD BUSINESS

Stormwater Runoff on farm fields - Update from Bill Pandy

William Pandy reported that there have been no new developments or information at this time.

Suggestion for New Members

Sandra McNicol noted that all vacancies for the Open Space Advisory Committee have been filled. A resident by the name of Pete DeCosta expressed his interest in joining the Agriculture Advisory Committee. There are two vacancies open on the Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Preservation Signs - discussion: size, wording, materials

Sandra McNicol handed out copies of pictures taken of preserved signs from other areas to get an idea of what everyone may be interested in for Kingwood Township. There was a discussion on whether farmers in the area would be discouraged by having a sign installed on their property, and the fear of the lack of privacy. Committeeman Phil Lubitz suggested that the Township offer preservation signs to private land owners who have preserved their land. Sandra McNicol asked everyone to think of what the signs should state. She asked the members to e-mail wording, style and type of structure size of signs to have made. The Committees all agreed to install preservation signs on all the preserved Township properties.

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by John Mathieu and carried the motion to install preserved signs on all Township preserved properties. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Review Hike surrounding Flag Property - May 2, 2009

Sandra McNicol reviewed the hike of May 2, at the Flag property. She noted that Richard Dodds and his son, mapped out a great trail for the hike.

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Everyone parked at the Old Fair View School then transported to the property. S. McNicol noted everyone that attended. Richard Dodds reviewed the site of the property on a GIS Map where the hike took place, and also several other areas nearby. A discussion on the location for a future hike in the fall will be discussed at the June meeting. Phil Lubitz noted that Sandra McNicol and Richard Dodds put a lot of hard work and time into the preparation of getting the hike together, and he thanked them for everything. He also suggested that the pictures from the hike be posted on the web site.

James Burke noted that by next month the Township will most likely own the Gergar property.

Liz Schmid shared news of a meeting she attended at the S.A.D.C. in Trenton. She noted everyone that attended and explained there was a woman present at the meeting, who talked about the highland regional changes. Liz noted that it effect's Kingwood in several ways. She suggested that the Agriculture Advisory Committee work in conjunction with the Planning Board. Liz stated that she received a call from the County Agriculture Development Board notifying her that she was appointed as a member to the County Board. The Committees thanked Liz for the hard work she has done, and for her thorough report.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activities Update

James Burke briefly gave an update on contracts that the Hunterdon Land Trust is working on preserving. The Trstensky property off of Kingwood Locktown Road is what they are currently working on a deal together. He noted that the Township cannot commit to anything yet, as far as, contributing open space funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Lockatong Preserve (Harms Property) Trail Work

There was a lengthy discussion on the property.

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Sandra McNicol noted that the property needs a lot of work done before planning a hike. She explained that the Committee needs to come up with a plan for the trails.

Richard Dodds would like to see the Boy Scouts get involved. He noted that he spoke to Mike Christenson, Scout Master in reference to what the scouts could do to create a trail. He noted that by the end of May there will be a design drawn up to make a trail. The concept is to have a walk on the Harms property in the fall of 2009. The Committee discussed the idea of additional advertising, and to also set a rain date for the next hike. The Committee discussed dates for the fall, and they decided to schedule the next hike to be on October 3, 2009, with a rain date of October 17, 2009 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol asked the Committee Members if there would be a problem canceling the July 2, 2009 Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees meeting. She explained that the Township Committee has rescheduled their meeting to be on July 2nd. Also many of the members of these Committees take vacation in July.

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried the motion to cancel the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting in the month of July. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Jack MacConnell, Spring Hill Road thanked Jim Burke for all his hard work in preserving the land for the Township located on Horseshoe Bend Road.

John Mathieu discussed the deer population, and the damage they are causing. There was a lengthy discussion on looking into hunting clubs to get more people to hunt the area, and also to educate the residents about the deer and the damage they are doing to forests and properties. It was noted to have the Environmental Commission look into this further.

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Keller, RMC
Secretary