

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:35 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 - James Burke
 Phil Lubitz
 Sandra McNicol
 Richard Dodds
 Lee Frank
 Linda Pfingst Oesterwinter**

Absent - John Mathieu

2.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present: **Elaine Niemann** **Liz Schmid**
 William Pandy
 Cynthia Niciecki

Absent: **Pete D'Costa**

Guest Speaker

Mildred Wehr - Present to give a Presentation - History of the Flagg Property

Mildred Wehr, a member of the Historical Society was present. She explained that the Open Space Advisory Committee invited her to come and share the history of the Flagg Property located on Fairview Road in Kingwood, and to research and come up with names for trails for the preserved properties. The Open Space Advisory Committee has had several hikes through areas that have been preserved throughout Kingwood Township. They are planning on working to make trails throughout the preserved areas, and would like to have each of the trails named as a part of history of each particular preserved property. The Historical Society has always named the roads for the Township, as each road name represents a part of history of the families that first settled in Kingwood Township.

Mrs. Wehr explained that the Flagg Property goes from Fairview Road all the way over to Horseshoe Bend Road. She stated that this was originally the Lenapi Indian territory at one time. She suggested that the trails could be named Lenapi trails. Mrs. Wehr explained the history of a man named John Bray, who was the owner of the property many years ago. She noted that Mr. Bray came over from England in 1636. He was a Baptist Minister who was instrumental in establishing the first Baptist church in Baptistown, which was a log cabin in the center of the cemetery in Baptistown behind the Church. She explained that John Bray had several sons, but only two named Daniel and James, settled in the Baptistown, Horseshoe Bend area. Mrs. Wehr gave a lot of historical background of the Bray Family. She suggested that one of the trails be named the Bray trail.

3.

She shared many stories of the history of Kingwood, which she said came from several books. One of the books is called "Beneath these waters", by Stephanie Stevenson. Richard Dodds asked Mildred about the history of the old home on the Flagg property. She explained that Jack Opdyke owned that house originally. There were many questions the members asked Mildred regarding the history of the Indian tribe names, and the names of their Chiefs. The Committee asked Mildred to research a little more information regarding the Indians. Mildred Wehr brought a historical map for everyone to review. Everyone thanked Mildred for sharing the history of the Township, for the ideas she gave for the trail names, and for coming to the meeting. Mildred noted she will be researching more for information for the Committee.

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by James Burke and carried to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2009 Regular meeting minutes for the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees and place on file.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Sandra McNicol, James Burke, Phil Lubitz, Cindy Niciecki, William Pandy, Elaine Niemann, Richard Dodds
	Nay	- None
	Absent	- John Mathieu, Pete D'Costa
	Abstain	- Lee Frank, Linda Pfingst Oesterwiner

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board re: County and Municipal PIG Program and Non-Profit Program 2010 Round Application Deadline for County Funding

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol asked if there were any comments from anyone regarding the letter. There were no comments. Liz Schmid explained information to utilize, so that they could grade the farms and make a determination.

4.

Attendees for Farmland Status Meeting/August 19, and September 23, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Reports

N/A

Old Business

Preservation Signs

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reported that she is still working on the signs with Deptcor, and stated that she will give them a several choices to choose from to make the best sign.

ANJEC 2009 Smart Growth Planning Grant Revised Agreement (Open Space and Recreation Plan): Review Kickoff Meeting of September 8, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed.

Lockatong Preserve (Harms Property) Invitation Flyer by Sandy McNicol - Hike on October 3, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reported that the hike is still on for Saturday, October 3rd even though the weather predicts rain.

Sustainable Jersey Program - Update on Green Team

Elaine Niemann briefly reviewed and stated when the team will meet next.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol gave an update. She stated that the Land Trust received a resolution for the Trystensky property. She noted that they have spoken to a couple of land owners in Kingwood who would be interested in preserving. She noted that they would like to do something with several properties, such as the Simon property, Gombosi property and the Kowalski property.

5.

Chairman William Pandy gave the Committee a brief history of the Horseshoe Bend Road reformed church.

New Business

Sample Resolution from Catherine Suttle from the Hunterdon Land Trust re: The Delaware River Stewardship Initiative - Motion to send a letter to the Township Committee to Support and Adopt the Attached Resolution

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that they are requesting a resolution of support from the Township Committee. She explained that they made a presentation to the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees a few weeks ago. They received a grant from the William Penn Foundation and also from the Delaware River Wild and Scenic to start a Delaware River Stewardship Initiative. She explained this is where they will work on informing people and also work on trails all along the Delaware River about a mile east all along the river communities. The idea is to get volunteers from all the communities to work and help with these properties that are located in their Township. She stated it is about managing the properties after they are obtained. It was stated by Richard Dodds that the Township is not committed to any financial commitment to this at all.

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to have the secretary sent a letter to the Township Committee requesting they adopt a resolution in support of the Delaware River Stewardship Initiative.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Sandra McNicol, James Burke, Phil Lubitz, Richard Dodds, Lee Frank, Linda Pfingst Oesterwiner
	Nay	- None
	Absent	- John Mathieu
	Abstain	- None

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Jack MacConnell - Spring Hill Road Mentioned a bald eagle that is On Spring Hill Road.

6.

Lee Frank - Mentioned there have been a lot of bats and fungus this summer.

The members all reviewed Mrs. Wehr's map of the Indian settlements, which Richard Dodds brought up on the computer.

Sandra McNicol noted that the Clarke property received a lot of press and mentioned Kingwood Township a few times, which is good public relations. Richard Dodds brought up the Clarke property for the Committee to review on a map over the computer.

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

The Agriculture Advisory Committee went downstairs to discuss business at approximately 8:20PM.

Liz Schmid advised the Agriculture Advisory Committee that they needed to approve the farms before the farms can be submitted for the 2010 round of our PIG. She stated that this must be done by October 21, 2010. Liz explained that there are three possibilities, the Yarusi Farm Block 23, Lot 5.03, the Gross Farm Block 5, Lot 4.03 and the Simon/Taylor Farm Block 25, Lot 8 and 8.01. The Ag Committee reviewed each piece and determined that Block 5, Lot 4.03 and Block 25, Lot 8 and 8.01 should be submitted. They also determined that from an aerial photo, that Block 23, Lot 5.03 did not qualify for farmland preservation as forested land and it appears to exceed the amount allowed in State regulations. She stated that this piece of property would be a prime prospect for open space/conservation preservation. She said that if the owner wishes to contest this finding it would have to be verified on the ground. Chairman William Pandy suggested that Block 12, Lot 1 would be a good substitution as it is contiguous with existing preserved farmland. All the members agreed that this piece should be submitted with the owner's approval. Liz Schmid will be contacting the owner. The Agriculture Advisory Committee reconvened with the Open Space Advisory Committee at approximately 9:00PM at the time the meeting ended.

The Agriculture Advisory Committee has requested that the Township Committee adopt a Resolution to support the participation of three farms.

7.

They are the Gross Farm, the Simon Farm, and the O'Grodnick Farm, which are farms selected by the Agriculture Advisory Committee, for the 2010 Municipal PIG Program.

It was moved by Jim Burke, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM.

All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary**