

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7: 35P.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 requested to utilize the microphones, which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ROLL CALL

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - Sandra McNicol	Absent - Linda Osterwinter
Phil Lubitz	
Richard Dodds	
James Burke	
John Mathieu	
Lee Frank	

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present: Elaine Niemann	Absent - Pete D'Costa
William Pandy	
Cynthia Niciecki	
Ed Kralovich	

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Also present at the meeting was Farmland Coordinator, Liz Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the October 1, 2009 and November 5, 2009 Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Minutes

October 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes and noted that there should be a correction on Page#6 - Pig Progress - Liz Schmid: 19th row:

Sentence as appears: Chairman William Pandy suggested that Block 12, Lot 1 would be a good substitution with the owner's approval.

Sentence should appear: Chairman William Pandy suggested that the Felix II Farm, Block 12, Lot 1 would be a good substitution with the owner's approval.

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by James Burke and carried to adopt the October 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes with corrections.

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

November 5, 2009 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to adopt the November 5, 2009 Meeting Minutes.

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

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Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid

Liz Schmid was present and gave a brief update on farmland preservation. She stated that the Felix Farm II, and the Simon Farm are now being ranked by the County. She stated that the Planning Board had approved at their last meeting an update of the corrections for the Farmland Preservation of the Master Plan. Liz explained that the State has sent a list of questions that need to be answered, and that she will need the Agriculture Advisory members to gather at the end of the meeting to help get fill in the blanks. She noted that Angela Clerico from Banisch Associates will be helping out with the request. James Burke stated he had a few names of those who are interested in preserving their property.

Correspondence

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/November 18, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Township New Owners

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol announced that the Township is now the new owners of the Gergar property as of November 20, 2009.

List of County Preserved Farms

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she downloaded from the County website a list of the Counties preserved farms. He noted that the Township of Kingwood has increased by one as of July 31, 2009 and now has eleven farms. The Augustine Farm was added to the list, making the total preserved acres to be 1,095.09 in the Township.

Old Business

Preservation Signs

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that she is waiting to get the Township logo from Legends, and then she will be able to proceed.

Sustainable Jersey Program - Update

Elaine Niemann noted that there is no update at this time.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she had tried to reach the Hunterdon Land Trust, but they have not gotten back to her at this time.

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New Business

Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund Program

HC Open Space Trust Fund Program Overview/Municipal Grant Application Form

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed a sheet regarding the Open Space Trust Fund Program. She stated that as the first of the year, and once the property on Horseshoe Bend road closes, the Township will apply for money from the County. She reviewed the lengthy application form with everyone and suggested that a work session be scheduled in January or February to work on it all together.

Sandra McNicol announced the following:

Policy and Procedures Manual County Website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/

Open Space Recreation Plan Element for Master Plan

Draft Survey - Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that Deborah Kratzer put the survey together, and stated that it is brief and clear. She stated that a discussion will take place at the next O.S. Recreation Plan Element meeting on how this will be mailed out to all the residents in the Township.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the next Meeting is scheduled for - December 10, 2009 6:30PM

Budget Request for 2010 for Open Space - Motion

The Committee members reviewed what they have spent this year and what expenses may occur in the coming year.

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by John Mathieu and carried to approve the amount of \$500.00 to be requested for the Open Space budget for 2010.

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

Discuss a Date and Time for a Reorganization Meeting in January 2010

The Committee member all agreed to schedule the reorganization meeting for the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee on January 7, 2009 at 7:00PM.

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Public Comments - Privilege of the Floor

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol thanked everyone for a great year, and that she hopes everyone returns next year on the committees. She thanked Richard Dodds for the wonderful hikes he arranged for everyone.

Horsebend Road Property

James Burke noted that the Horseshoe Bend road property is coming along.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by James Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:50PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary**