

**AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2010**

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:25 P.M. There were not enough members present to make a quorum for the Open Space Advisory Committee. Chairwoman William Pandy 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 8, 2010. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 8, 2010.

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**

**Agriculture Advisory Committee**

**Present**

William Pandy  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Elaine Niemann

**Absent**

Pete D'Costa  
Ed Krovalich

From the Open Space Advisory Committee the following members were present and participated, no actions or motions were made by the O.S. Members:

Sandra McNicol  
Phil Lubitz  
Lee Frank

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion and approval of February 4, 2010 Minutes

This will be tabled until the next meeting in April.

2.

### Correspondence

Letter from the Hunterdon County Planning Board re:  
2010 County Open Space Trust Fund Distribution and  
Municipal Allocations

There was a discussion of the percentages and the figures on the chart attached to the letter.

Hunterdon County Democrat - Newspaper Articles on County  
Open Space Funds

Chairwoman of the Open Space Advisory Committee Sandra McNicol provided these articles for everyone to read.

The topics were (1) Dividing Open Space Funds.  
(2) Words will drive how open space tax is used.

### Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid

Report for March 4, 2010 By Liz Schmid:

1. 2010 round PIG - The Simon/Taylor Farm on Kingwood/Locktown Road, which was turned down by the County was also turned down by the Federal Farm and Ranchland program. HLTA is now trying to get approval to use their last SADC money to preserve this property. The Felix family has not responded to my call referring them to the State for the State Fee Simple program since they want to sell the farm outright.
2. I hope that all of the details will be worked out in time for the Felix I farm to close by the end of this month. The State has asked for an extension in case we cannot get all of the ducks in a row, but have not heard back from the Feds if this is possible.

3.

3. The Wind farm (Bl 8 Lot 21, Lower Oak Grove Rd.) was suggested as a possible future preservation project by neighbor. This property is not on our PIG wish list so the PIG would have to be amended if the owner and Township is interested.

Liz Schmid  
March 4, 2010

#### Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/February 2010

The Agriculture Advisory Committee reviewed. Liz Schmid attended the meeting for Kingwood Township.

#### Old Business

##### Preservation Signs

Sandra McNicol reported that she is still working on the signs. She noted that she is drawing the logo by hand.

##### Sustainable Jersey Program - Update

Elaine Niemann reported that the last meeting for the Green Team was canceled due to the weather. She explained a project that they are working on for Earth Day. The children in the Kingwood School will be drawing pictures and made into t-shirts. She also explained they are working on a project that will be called adopt a road. This is to clean up the roads in the township.

##### Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

There was nothing new to discuss. Phil Lubitz reported on an article that was written up regarding the Dovoore Farm in Flemington NJ.

##### Open Space Recreation Plan Element for Master Plan

Sandra McNicol reported that the turn out at the Kingwood School was approximately 20 people that showed up and filled out the survey. The survey was to find out what the residents would like for open space and recreation. Debbie Kratzer explained that the survey needs to be boosted up more.

She suggested getting permission from the Superintendent at the Kingwood school regarding sending the survey home with the children for the parents to fill out and send back. It was also suggested to pass out to the Merry Mixers, and the Historical Society members.

#### The Kingwood Land Use Plan - Community Survey

There was a brief discussion on the results from the Land Use Survey.

#### Spring Hike - Kugler Woods

Sandra McNicol reviewed a draft flyer she made to handout and hang up in the Municipal building. She stated that the hike is on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 PM. There was a brief discussion of the details of the trip and where everyone will park. She stated that everyone is welcome to come.

Sandra McNicol noted a bit of history and that the trees on the Kugler property were made at one time to make boats to transfer lime up to Easton PA.

#### **New Business**

##### ANJEC Smart Growth Planning Grant Application

- Focus Sustainability/Land Stewardship

Elaine Niemann reviewed what this grant was all about. There was a discussion on how the sustainability program is so important to our Master Plan.

##### WHIP Program Information for Township Landowners

Cindy Niciecki reported on a meeting she attended regarding the WHIP program. This is the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. She described what this is all about. Cindy handed out information on the program.

##### Preserved Property List on Township Web Page

Sandra McNicol suggested that this be put on next months agenda. She explained that David Banisch will be scanning and creating a map for the township.

5.

Update on COAH

Phil Lubitz reported on an update with Habitat for Humanity and the Ukarish Farm and also the Melnyk Farm.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Other Matters

Adjournment

It was moved by Cynthia Niciecki, seconded by Elaine Niemann and carried to adjourn the Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting at 8:55PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cynthia L. Keller,  
Secretary**