

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2010

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:35 P.M. Secretary Cynthia Keller 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 December 10, 2009, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on December 8, 2009. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on December 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	James Burke
Richard Dodds	
John Mathieu	
Lee Frank	

Agriculture Advisory Committee

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

Reorganize

Nomination for Chairperson for Open Space Advisory

2.

It was moved by Mr. Mathieu, second by Mr. Dodds and carried to nominate Sandra McNicol Chairwoman for the Open Space Advisory Committee for the year 2010.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- P. Lubitz, R. Dodds, J. Mathieu, L. Frank
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- S. McNicol
	Absent	- J. Burke, S. Oesterwinter

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Open Space Advisory

It was moved by Mrs. McNicol, second by Mr. Lubitz and carried to nominate Richard Dodds Vice Chairman for the Open Space Advisory Committee for the year 2010.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- P. Lubitz, S. McNicol, J. Mathieu, L. Frank
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Richard Dodds
	Absent	- J. Burke, S. Oesterwinter

Nomination for Chairperson for Agriculture Advisory

It was moved by Mrs. Niciecki, second by Mr. D'Costa and carried to nominate William Pandy Chairman for the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the year 2010.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- C. Niciecki, P. D'Costa, E. Kralovich
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- W. Pandy
	Absent	- E. Niemann

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Agriculture Advisory

It was moved by Mr. Kralovich, second by Mr. D'Costa and carried to nominate Cynthia Niciecki Vice Chairwoman for the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the year 2010.

3.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- P. D'Costa, E. Kralovich
Nay	- None
Abstain	- C. Niciecki
Absent	- E. Niemann, W. Pandy

Motion and approval of scheduled meeting dates for 2010
Meeting Time Has Been Changed to 7:00PM

It was moved by Mr. Dodds, second by Mr. Mathieu and carried to approve the following meeting dates for the year 2010, and also for the time to be changed to 7:00PM.

January 7, 2010	July 1, 2010
February 4, 2010	No Meeting - August
March 4, 2010	September 9, 2010
April 8, 2010	October 7, 2010
May 6, 2010	November 4, 2010
June 3, 2010	December 2, 2010

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	- P. D'Costa, E. Kralovich, W. Pandy, C. Niciecki, P. Lubitz, S. McNicol, R. Dodds, J. Mathieu, L. Frank
Nay	- None
Abstain	- None
Absent	- E. Niemann, J. Burke, L. Oesterwinter

Motion and approval of local newspapers (Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News) for advertisements

It was moved by Mr. Dodds, second by Mr. Lubitz and carried to approve the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the Courier News as the local newspapers for advertisements for the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees.

4.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- P. D'Costa, E. Kralovich, W. Pandy C. Niciecki, P. Lubitz, S. McNicol, R. Dodds, J. Mathieu, L. Frank
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- E. Niemann, J. Burke, L. Oesterwinter

Comments from the Newly Nominated Chairpersons

Sandra McNicol, Richard Dodds, William Pandy, and Cynthia Niciecki all thanked everyone for all working together and noted to keep at it.

Municipal Orientation - Committeewoman Elaine Niemann

Elaine Niemann was unable to attend this evening, and will be presenting the Municipal Orientation at the February 4, 2010 meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion and approval of December 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Mathieu, second by Mr. Lubitz and carried to approve the December 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes for the Open Space/Agricultural Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- E. Kralovich, W. Pandy C. Niciecki, P. Lubitz, S. McNicol, R. Dodds, J. Mathieu, L. Frank
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- P. D'Costa
	Absent	- E. Niemann, J. Burke, L. Oesterwinter

Correspondence

Copy of Resolution No. 2009-149 Hunterdon County Municipal Grant Program Allocation/Copy of Letter to Open Space Coord. Kevin Richardson, Hunterdon County Planning Board

5.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed copy of Resolution No. 2009-149 that the Township adopted, which explains that the Township of Kingwood has been allocated an amount in the Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Municipal Grants Program for the year 2008. The Township has requested by Resolution that the County bank and reserve the funds allotted in the year 2008 of \$32,13693 in the Municipal Grant Program for the Township's pending application to preserve Block 14, Lots 28.02 and 30.

Planning for Local Farms and Food Workshop January 15, 2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed information on a workshop that focuses on promoting agriculture, and access to locally grown food in New Jersey. She noted that the workshop is scheduled for January 15th, 2010 at 9:30AM - Noon at the Rutgers EcoComplex, in Bordentown, NJ. She stated that Liz Schmid will be attending, and if anyone is interested to contact Liz.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid
(Report for January 7, 2010)

Liz was not present at the meeting this evening. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the following report submitted by Liz Schmid.

Agriculture Advisory Committee Report
January 7, 2010

1. 2010 round PIG -CADB has ranked all farms submitted for the 2010 PIG round. Felix II (12/1) ranked #8 on the original list and is well up on the list to receive County funding. The Simon/Taylor farm (25/8 & 25/8.01) originally ranked 16, which was sufficiently high to receive County Funding. However, CADB decided to eliminate this farm from the list as it did not meet their minimum size requirement.

6.

There will be more discussion on this matter at the next CADB meeting as the CADB chose to rank large farms with no decent soil while eliminating small farms with good soils. This decision does not make much sense to me, and the CADB staff wants to know how strongly the Township wants this farm to be preserved at this time. One of the things we need to consider in determining this is how much funding the Township is going to have available in the next few years to preserve farms. If the Township can only preserve one of these farms, which would the Committee prefer?

2. By the time the Committee meets I hope the survey for Felix will have been completed. The surveyors are waiting for a piece of information that was missing from the title work that the DeSapio office sent to them. They were also waiting for confirmation of the location of the 4 acre non-severable exception, which is being requested. They were working on both of these issues on 12/30 and hoped to have all things resolved by the time you are meeting. As soon as that is completed, the DeSapio Office will be sending out contracts to the Felix family.

Submitted by
Liz Schmid

The Committee members had a very lengthy discussion regarding Liz Schmid's report.

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/December 16, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that Liz Schmid attended the meeting.

Old Business

Preservation Signs

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she is still working on getting the signs together. It was discussed what wording should be on the signs.

7.

She noted that she obtained copies of the Deeds of the Ukarish property, and the Melnyk property from the Township Clerk. Mrs. McNicol read aloud the following information she received from Clerk MacConnell:

When the Township purchased the Melnyk property, the Township Committee subdivided off 10 acres, so there is a deed for the new lot, and a deed for the land remaining. The ten acres was purchased with regular funds, so the ten acres is not preserved. This is the area where the existing structures were already located, and where the new garage was built. The thinking at the time by the Township Committee was to allow a little land not only for the new garage, but for any possible future needs.

When the Township purchased the Ukarish property, the Township Committee subdivided 7 acres, so there is a deed for the new lot, and a deed for the land remaining. The seven acres was purchased with regular funds, so the seven acres is not preserved. This is the area where the existing structures were already located. There was a separate, small strip/odd piece of land that had belonged to Mr. Melnyk and this was already the property of the Township, and it was located across the road from Mr. Melnyk's farm and sat between the Ukarish property and the Kingwood Park property. This piece was merged into Kingwood Park at the time the Township purchased the Ukarish property, thus creating the need for another deed. Then there are also two deeds with the County for their participation in the preservation project.

The Committees discussed where the signs would be located on the preserved properties.

Sustainable Jersey Program - Update

Elaine Niemann was not present to update on the Green Team.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that she had spoken to Kate Buttoph of the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, and she is still not sure when the closing will be for the Equestrian Villiage, Horsebend Road property.

8.

She explained that Kate Buttoph would like to come and speak to the Open Space/Ag Committees. Sandra McNicol noted that she will contact Ms. Buttoph to invite her to the next meeting in February.

New Business

Open Space Recreation Plan Element for Master Plan

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the Environmental Commission is working on a survey for the Open Space Recreation Plan Element. It was noted that ANJEC would like to see Community participation.

There was a lengthy discussion on compiling a list of possible farms to be preserved. Sandra McNicol suggested that if anyone knows of families that would be interested in preserving their farm, to contact Liz Schmid. Lee Frank stated that his brother, Dave Frank is interested in preserving his property.

Priorities for 2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that a list has not been created as of yet. She stated that she would like to plan a spring hike this year. There was a lengthy discussion regarding putting up signs on posted preserved areas.

The Committees also discussed several possible ideas for the Equestrian Village, which may include walking trails, horseback riding trails, and bike trails. John Mathieu explained that a stewardship is very important. He also suggested that maps of the preserved properties should be posted on the website, along with safety issues, and access to the properties. There was a brief discussion on the Gergar Property that the Township owns now, and that there is nothing happening at this time.

The Kingwood Land Use Plan - Community Survey

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that if anyone has not filled out a community survey, to please do so. Richard Dodds and Sandra McNicol thanked each other, and their families for all their help stuffing and labeling all the envelopes for the mailing of the survey.

9.

Mrs. McNicol asked everyone to inform Secretary C. Keller of any changes in their e-mail or addresses.

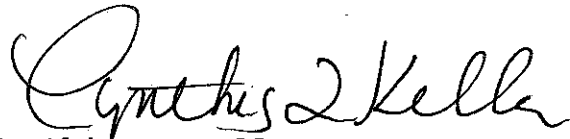
Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Mathieu, second by Mr. Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia L. Keller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary