

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2010**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:20 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 14th, 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

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present:	Sandra McNicol	Absent:	Richard Dodds
	Phil Lubitz		John Mathieu
	James Burke		
	Lee Frank		

Agriculture Advisory Committee

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion and approval of the February 4, 2010 Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Minutes

2.

It was moved by Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Frank and carried to approve the February 4, 2010 Meeting Minutes of the Open Space / Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting.

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

Motion and approval of the March 4, 2010 Agriculture Advisory Committee Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Niemann, seconded by William Pandy and carried to adopt the March 4, 2010 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes with the following corrections:

First Paragraph, third line: Correct and replace Chairman for Chairwoman when referring to William Pandy.

Not enough members present at the joint Board of Health Meeting on April 21st to call a meeting to order

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that there was no meeting for the Open Space on April 21, 2010 due to lack of quorum. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol was present at the meeting on April 21, and gave a brief review of what was discussed.

Correspondence

Copy of Letter dated March 8, 2010 from the Hunterdon County Planning Board re: Freeholders Decision on Open Space Acquisition

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the letter from the County. She noted that the County has decided to combine the March 1, 2010 and September 1, 2010 funding rounds into one annual round for all cooperative open space acquisition assistance requests.

3.

She noted that all applications must be submitted to the County O.S. Coordinator no later than July 1, annually. There was a discussion on looking into the Township's funds.

DRBC Report on Flooding - Bucks County Herald newspaper article

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the article she provided for everyone. She stated that it is regarding the flooding of the Delaware River, and how the floods of 2004, 2005, and 2006 would have occurred regardless of the pre-event storage condition in the upper basin reservoirs.

Freeholder Board and Open Space - Hunterdon County Democrat newspaper article

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that she attended a County Open Space Meeting recently. She stated that she basically observed, and noticed many volunteers giving their time. She thought it was an important article regarding rankings applications and would like the members to read it and to be aware.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid
(Report for May 6, 2010)

The following is a copy of Liz Schmid's Report for May 6th, 2010:

Agriculture Advisory Committee Report, 2010

May 6, 2010

1. The Felix farm is now preserved. It closed on April 15th. The family seems very happy with the outcome.
2. I met with the Elys. They are talking about preserving their field on the north side of Kingwood-Locktown Rd. (Block 25/Lot 10). They will be back in touch when they decide exactly how they want to do this.

Liz Schmid

4.

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/March 24, 2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Old Business

Review of Hike of April 24th, at Kugler Woods - Discussion

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the hike went very well. She said that there were eleven people that showed up for the walk, and that it was a picture perfect day. She reviewed the different kinds of plants they saw on the property, the ravine, and the waterfalls.

Preservation Signs

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted signs were put up on the Niciecki Farm and the Augustine Farm. She stated that they both have the large signs that come from the State. Mrs. McNicol noted that, as far as, the signs for the Ukarish and the Melnyk Farms she is still working on the logo for the signs and will have prices for the next meeting.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

Sandra McNicol noted that she contacted Kate Buttolph from the Hunterdon Land Trust. She stated that the owners of Block 23, Lot 5.03 on Thatcher Road, have applied to Green Acres for fee simple. Mrs. McNicol noted that the Hunterdon Land Trust is looking into the Trstensky property, the Cooley property, and Mattison property.

Copy of Letter sent to the Township Clerk from the D.E.P

Sandra McNicol reviewed the letter sent to the Township Clerk date April 20, 2010. It was a letter of an invitation from the D.E.P. regarding Green Acres Program, Land Preservation, and Park Development Project extending an invitation to apply for Green Acres Funds. Sandra stated that it may be a good idea to form a subcommittee to discuss what properties would rank high for these funds.

5.

James Burke suggested that we work with the Hunterdon Land Trust to see what they are targeting, and to see what their list is of what properties are applicable.

James Burke gave an update on the Equestrian Village property.

Open Space Recreation Plan Element for Master Plan

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the last subcommittee meeting for the Open Space/Recreation Plan. She stated that Planner David Banisch completed a draft plan for all the boards and committees to review and give their comments. She asked Secretary Keller to e-mail the draft of the plan to the Parks and Recreation Committee for their next meeting.

The Kingwood Land Use Plan - Community Survey

Elaine Niemann stated that the data entry is now complete of the Community Survey. She stated that thanks to Lee Frank and Liz Schmid for all their time entering the data. She stated that there is a total of 348 surveys submitted. A spread sheet is ready to be analyzed. There goal is to identify each survey and comply the comments.

New Business

Lockatong Wildlife Management Area (High Falls) Trail Work Boy Scout Troop 251 and Kingwood Twp.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that the scouts did a great job. They spent 2 to 3 hours each day working on the trail.

Thank You Letter to Scouts

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol read aloud a thank you letter she prepared for Scout Troop 251.

Hunterdon County Democrat Article

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the letter in the H.C. Democrat regarding the Scouts helping blaze the trail to High Falls.

6.

Trail Map and Directions for Website

This will be discussed next month.

Trail Development

- Logistics of Developing a Trail

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that on March 2009 she and Richard Dodds talked to a member of the Fish and Wildlife, and the Scout Masters on working to make the trails. She explained how Richard Dodds spent many hours preparing getting ready for the trail development.

- Preserved Properties in the Township - Next Focus

This will be discussed next month.

Copy of Hunterdon County Preserved Farms by Municipality as of December 31, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol discussed all the farms that have been preserved in Kingwood Township.

Clarke Property - Trail Development

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that there has been a report from the Hunterdon Land Trust regarding a lot of trash on the property, which they have been cleaning up.

Environmental Commission Well Testing for Arsenic
May 20th - May 24th, 2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained the well water testing for arsenic the Environmental Commission is conducting with cooperation of the school. She explained that it was also for residents who want to test their water for arsenic who do not have children in the school. She stated the test is \$15.00 per household. She reviewed the hazards of arsenic and how it gets into the water and the bedrock. This testing will be at the end of May.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

N/A

7.

Other Matters

Census Update

Elaine Niemann noted that as of April 23, 2010 our mail in response for Kingwood Township was 75%, and 76% at this time in the year 2000. She noted that we are in target with the percentage, and it would be great if more people responded.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by James Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary