

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2010**

Call to Order

At this meeting not enough members present for a quorum for Open Space Advisory Committee.

A regular meeting of the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:18 P.M. Chairman 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 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

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Absent

Elaine Niemann
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Peter D'Costa

Ed Kralovich

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present

Absent

Sandra McNicol
James Burke
Phil Lubitz

Richard Dodds
John Mathieu
Lee Frank

The members present for the Open Space Advisory Committee participated in conversation only at the meeting.

2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and approval of the May 6, 2010 Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Minutes

These will be tabled until next month for approval.

Correspondence

Copy of Letter from the Department of Environmental Protection re: Application for Green Acres Funds by July 30, 2010

To be discussed at the July meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Copy of Letter of thanks to the Boy Scouts Troop 251 from Environmental Commission Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer

To be discussed at the July meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Reports

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

Liz noted that the Township has received a letter for the Plan Incentive Grant final approval from the State Agricultural Department. Everyone thanked Liz for all her hard work on this grant. She briefly reviewed an update that Chris and Diane Ely want to preserve half of their farm, which is (B1 25, Lot 10) on Kingwood Locktown Road. This was formerly the Williams Farm. She stated that they may preserve their farm at a later date. There was a brief discussion on wetland credits for preserved properties in the Township. She noted that this will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/May 19, 2010

Chairman William Pandy reviewed. Liz Schmid stated that she did not attend this meeting, but that she knows there are no projects going on at this time.

Old Business

Preservation Signs

Sandra McNicol who was present commented that she had samples with her of the preservation signs she is working on.

3.

Old Business Continued

She stated that they are the same size as a speed limit sign. She showed all the members a copy with the colors. She is working with a company named Deptcor to have the signs made. Sandra also discussed with the members the names and wording that will be on the signs. She asked the Committee members for comments and suggestions. James Burke suggested that the logo be slightly larger. The other members commented briefly. This will be on the agenda for July to discuss. There was a brief discussion on the Gergar farm and the preservation signs and requests by Helen Gergar.

Hunterdon Land Trust – Activity update

Sandra McNicol noted that not much is going on at this time. She announced that there will be a “Day on the Land” put on by the Hunterdon Land Trust. It will be at the Frenchtown Preserve at 9:00am and it is free to anyone interested. She stated to check their website for more information.

Open Space Recreation Plan Element for Master Plan

Sandra McNicol explained that they are still receiving feedback from all the boards and committees. To be discussed next month.

Electronic Mailing of Packets

Sandra McNicol suggested that the meeting packages for Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee to be prepared and sent electronically. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea and less paper used.

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by Peter D’Costa and carried to approve that the meeting packages be sent electronically starting with July 1, 2010.

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

New Business

Open Space Funds – Diane Laudenbach

Sandra McNicol noted that she has been trying to obtain more information on the current open space funds. She stated that she will have the information for the next meeting in July.

Stewardship

- Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST)

Sandra McNicol mentioned that the Environmental Commission is looking into this program to possibly get involved. She explained how the program works. She stated that Nicole Voigt, an attorney who is a member on the Environmental Commission will be looking into this program. Sandra handed out information for everyone to review for their info.

Trail Development

- Preserved Properties in the Township – Next Focus

This will be discussed at next months meeting in July.

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

Sandra McNicol explained how the program worked. She stated that there were over a hundred and fifty tests handed in to be tested. She noted that 75% of the tests failed and over the state level.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Other Matters

Solar Panels on Farms in Kingwood

There was a lengthy discussion on how individuals are interested in buying large acres of farmland in the township to put up solar panels. James Burke suggested that the Committees should look into this further. Farmers, William Pandy and Peter D'Costa commented on the information they new about the solar panels.

Adjournment

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM. All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary