

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2010

Call to Order

At this time of the meeting not enough members were present for the Agriculture Advisory Committee to have a quorum.

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05 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: Phil Lubitz
 Richard Dodds
 John Mathieu
 James Burke
 Lee Frank

Agriculture Advisory Committee

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

Chairwoman of the Open Space Advisory Committee Sandra McNicol announced that there is no meeting for the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees next month in August.

2.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th, the second Thursday of the month in place of the first week, due to the holiday weekend.

She asked everyone to make a note of that, because it is not on the normal first Thursday of the month.

Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by James Burke and carried to approve the May 6, 2010 Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

RCV:	Aye	-	J. Burke, S. McNicol, Lee Frank
	Nay	-	None
	Abstain	-	Richard Dodds, J. Mathieu
	Absent	-	Phil Lubitz

Motion and approval of the June 3, 2010 Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Not enough members present. This will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Correspondence

Newspaper Article – Horseshoe Bend Road Property

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Newspaper Article – Urbach Farm Preservation-Raritan Township

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Reports

Farmland Preservation – Zander Farm - Liz Schmid

Liz Schmid was not present at the meeting. She did submit a report for July. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol review the following report from Liz Schmid:

3.

Open Space – Agriculture Advisory Committee
July 2010

1. I will be working on the Ely (Bl 25 / Lot 10, 92.41 acres with a 2 acre non-severable exception) municipal PIG application for next year. I will ask Richard to help with the mapping.
2. The Alexandria Township farmland preservation person and I have been playing phone tag in relation to the Zander farm (in Kingwood it is Bl 5, Lot 3, 28.44 acres). There is a similar amount in Alexandria Township. Since both lots are smaller than the minimum size that the CADB wants, we have spoken to the County about having the whole farm (both lots) included in the County PIG for next year. Bill Millette (County Planning Board Staff) has agreed that the County route would probably be the neater way to do the application. As this farm is not on our PIG wish list, having us do an application would necessitate our amending our PIG, which would mean having Banisch involved, so the County route would be best for us. The Township would still be expected to pay the usual 20% of the certified appraisal at closing.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained Liz Schmid will be reviewing this info when she returns from vacation at the meeting in September.

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/June 16, 2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Old Business

Preservation Signs

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reported that each sign will cost about \$65.00. The Committee discussed the signs and would like Sandy to order them.

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by James Burke and carried to approve to spend \$65.00 for each preservation sign out of the Open Space account.

RCV:	Aye	-	J. Burke, S. McNicol, Lee Frank, Richard Dodds, J. Mathieu
	Nay	-	None
	Abstain	-	None
	Absent	-	Phil Lubitz

4.

Hunterdon Land Trust – Activity update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reported that the last updated info for the Hunterdon Land Trust is that they are implementing the goal for the Frenchtown preserve property. She explained that the HLT had a project agreement signed between the State and Frenchtown, which allows them to proceed with their plan of putting up trail markers, a kiosk, and a deer enclosure, and a parking lot off Route 12. Richard Dodds reported that the trail markers are in, one of the deer enclosures is up, and that the D.E.P. must okay the parking lot before being completed. This will be a 6 to 8 car parking lot.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reported an update on the preservation on Horseshoe Bend Road, the Deer Run property. She noted this will be closing this Wednesday. She stated that the property is 73 acres, 25 of which will be left natural open space, and the remaining 48 acres to be used for agricultural use.

Open Space Recreation Plan Element for Master Plan – update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that this is in Planner David Banisch's hands and is still being worked on. A meeting with the Planning Board will be scheduled for review soon.

Stewardship

• Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) – Environmental Commission Report

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the Environmental Commission has decided to become members of the Team, and she explained all the details of the program.

New Business

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

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reported that she spoke to Planner David Banisch regarding this letter. She stated that he explained that this is important information that the Township must review and make a decision. She noted that he suggested that the Open Space Committee should recommend to the Township Committee to send a letter to Green Acres, stating that the Township would like to participate in this program. Jim Burke explained that this is a yearly application that the Township always fills out for Green Acres funds. He noted that he will speak to Margaret Waldock regarding a property that she may know would be a possible consideration.

5.

Hunterdon County Green Table – County Open Space Trust Policy
• Kingwood Township/Hunterdon County Future Involvement

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed a meeting on June 17th that she attended. She handed out a chart, which she reviewed with everyone.

Open Space Funds – Diane Laudenbach

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that she did not receive any information this month. She will have more info at the September meeting.

Solar Arrays Ordinance – Recommendations to Planning Board

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reported that Planner David Banisch will be working on having a draft ordinance for the Planning Board to review.

New member for Open Space – recommendations

It was noted that if anyone knows anyone who would be interested in becoming a member of the Open Space Advisory Committee to please encourage them to join.

Correspondence

Newspaper Article - Horseshoe Bend Road

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Newspaper Article – Urbach Farm Preservation – Raritan Township

The Committee members discussed the article.

Fall Hike – Discussion

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that the fall hike is planned for Saturday, October 16th. She asked everyone to think about a place for the hike. She stated that the Felix Farm may be a possibility.

NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program – Discussion

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed. She explained that this is a total voluntary program.

6.

Trail Development

• Preserved Properties in the Township – Next Focus

The Committee members reviewed.

Hunterdon County Green Table Meeting – September 16, 8:00 am

Topic Deer Management

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol announced the meeting information. There was a lengthy discussion on hunting and possible clubs that may be interested.

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Dodds, seconded by Mr. Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submit,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary