

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2011
7:00PM

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:04P.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 13th, 2011, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 5, 2011. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 5, 2011.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of these Committees, 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 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

Phil Lubitz
James Burke
Sandra McNicol
Richard Dodds
Lee Frank

Absent

John Mathieu
Karen Hertzog

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Elaine Niemann
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Edward Kralovich

Absent

Pete D'Costa

2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of January 4, 2011 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to approve the January 4, 2011 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- P. Lubitz, J. Burke, S. McNicol, R. Dodds, L. Frank
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- J. Mathieu, K. Hertzog, P. D'Costa

Meeting of February 1, 2011 was cancelled due to weather.

Correspondence

Copy of CY 2011 Municipal Allocation & Distribution of Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed a memorandum from Kevin Richardson, County Open Space Coordinator. She explained that the 2010 municipal contribution for Kingwood Township was \$208,519.12, and the 2010 County Open Space Tax calculation, ten 10% percent allocation is \$20,851.91.

Memo from the Land Conservancy of New Jersey re: Grants Available to Update your Open Space and Recreation Plan

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that this was a notice informing municipalities that there are grants available to update their open space and recreation plan. She noted that the grant application is due by March 31, 2011 and requires a 50% match from the municipality to help cover the cost of updating open space and recreation plans.

3.

Article FYI - Only a Third of Hunterdon Towns File
Recycling Reports (Thank you, Cynthia Niciecki)

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol expressed her thanks to Recycling Coordinator Cindy Niciecki for the great job with keeping up with the yearly reports. Everyone commended Cynthia Niciecki for the hard work she has put towards the Township's recycling program.

Ed Krolovich asked a question regarding recycling and the local garbage disposal companies that pickup garbage in the Township. He heard that some of the private companies are starting to have recycling pickup each week, and he is concerned about municipalities not reporting those items that have been recycled. Sandra McNicol noted that her garbage disposal company picks up her recycling and she is able to commingle all the items she recycles and also obtain points. There was a discussion on the cost the Township pays for the containers to be picked up from the recycling center.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid
(Report for February 1, and March 1, 2011)

Farmland Preservation Coordinator Liz Schmid was unable to attend the meeting this evening, but sent the following update. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol read aloud the following reports from Liz Schmid:

February 1, 2011 Report:

1. The SADC meeting was cancelled in January due to snow. As a result, there has been no decision on funding for the Gordeuk Estate property in Barbertown. It was on the agenda for approval. They expect the meeting to be rescheduled in the next several weeks.
2. At January's CADB meeting, the Board eliminated five of fifteen applications for 2011 Round farmland preservation. Our PIG application, the Tozzi farm, was one of those eliminated. The Board was concerned with the amount of non-tillable area on the farm, the overgrown areas and the wet areas.

4.

The Gross, Zander, Maplewood and Helmer farms are still on the list Both the Maplewood and Helmer farms require some revisions to the exception areas. The Board rejection means that County funding will not be available for Tozzi farm (20% of the total easement amount). The Township would have to decide whether it wanted to proceed with this farm without this 20%. The other four farms would undoubtedly use up State funding for the year and more.

3. The Maplewood Farm (Search/Makatura) has completed an application with the HLTA for Federal Farm and Ranchland funding. They have also gotten an offer from a solar company for purchase of the farm. They are reviewing their options.

March 3, 2011 Report:

1. SADC approved the Gordeuk Estate property for non-profit State funding.

2. HLTA reports that both the Gordeuk Estate property and Search/Makatura :(Maplewood Farm) scored well on the Federal Farm and Ranch Land application. They hope to get approval for the farms in the very near future.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol read aloud the following:

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/January 19, 2011
Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/February 16, 2011

Old Business

Kugler Woods MOA

Richard Dodds gave an update of the Memorandum of Agreement that was sent to the State to approve. He stated that after speaking to a representative from the State Forestry, that the agreement and grant should be completed and approved in the near future.

5.

James Burke noted that on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Township Committee meeting, a Resolution will be discussed and considered for adoption to accept \$1,150,000 from Green Acres to help purchase the Polopoly property on Horseshoe Bend Road. He stated that Mr. Polopoly has agreed to sell for a price of 5.8 million. Mr. Burke noted that there is a tentative date for a closing on May 31, 2011. All the members clapped and thanked James Burke for all his effort he put towards obtaining the property for the Township.

Preservation Signs

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol described the details of the preserved sign she is designing for the Melnyk property. William Pandy feels that the name on the sign should be what was on the original Deed. There was a brief discussion on the names to be on the signs. The Committee decided that it may be a good idea to ask the original owners what name they would like to see on the sign. William Pandy will speak to his mother to find out more information regarding who to speak with about the names. The Committee members discussed possible dates for the dedication of the signs.

Approval to spend funds on a sign for the Melnyk Property:

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by James Burke and carried to approve the joint Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee to spend up to \$125.00 for a preservation sign for the Melnyk Farm.

Roll Call Vote: Aye	- P. Lubitz, J. Burke, S. McNicol, R. Dodds, L. Frank
Nay	- None
Abstain	- None
Absent	- J. Mathieu, K. Hertzog, P. D'Costa

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that she had spoken to representatives from the Hunterdon County Land Trust, and they expressed that they do not want preserved properties named after the property owner. The Committees discussed the property located on Barbertown Idell Road.

6.

They suggested that the Open Space Committee come up with some good ideas for names. Lee Frank came up with the idea of "Idell Preserve" since it is the area of families that lived in the area named Idell. There was a long discussion on names for the property. James Burke suggested asking the Historical Society for names of possibly Indian names. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol offered to obtain more information and bring back to the Committees to decide.

Landowner Workshop - Schedule for the Fall 2011

Sandra McNicol asked if the members were interested in working on a workshop this fall. Phil Lubitz shared several ideas. There was a discussion on possibly asking the Land Trust for help. Sandra suggested waiting until June to see what is being funded and what is not.

Wetland Banks Discussion Continued

Lee Frank stated that a representative from Green Vest will be going to his property to talk to him in the morning on March 10th, 2011, to work with him regarding getting his property ready for the project. He invited any members who may be interested to attend to listen and learn more about the wetland banks.

New Business

Spring Hike Discussion

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she ran into Anne Felix at the recycling center. She stated that Anne expressed that she is more than happy to have a spring hike on her property. Richard Dodds recommended the month of May to schedule a date for the hike. After a brief discussion of dates for the hike, the Committees decided that May 21, 2011 to be a tentative date, and May 14th as an alternate date. They decided that 3:00PM would be a good time to start the hike. Sandra McNicol will reach out to Anne Felix to schedule a date and time that works best for her.

7.

Dedication Time and Date

There was a discussion on dates and times to be made for the dedications for the Ukarish Property and the Gergar Property. The Committees agreed on the following dates and times:

Gergar Property - Friday, March 18, 2011 at 5:00P.M.

Ukarish Property - Friday, April 8, 2011 at 5:00P.M.

Mayor Lubitz stated that Kingwood Township has the fourth lowest debt ratio in the County out of 26 municipalities.

Community Day September 17th, 2011 - A table for the Open Space / Agriculture Committee

There were several suggestions on the idea of having a table of information to educate the public regarding open space and agriculture and what is being done in the Township. There were some suggestions on what would be demonstrated for the public to see.

Cynthia Niciecki asked what would be happening with the sale of the Gergar Property, since the buyer passed away. Jim Burke explained that the Township will be working on going out for bids again and looking at many options for the sale of the property. They feel that it is not best to let it go too long, since no one has been living inside the home.

All the members congratulated James Burke again for working so hard to get the property on Horseshoe Bend Road for the Township.

8.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Lee Frank and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:03P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary
Open Space/Agriculture
Advisory Committees