

**OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**July 5, 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 7:08P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

**Notice 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

Absent

James Burke  
Sandra McNicol  
Richard Dodds  
Phil Lubitz  
Lee Frank  
Karen Hertzog

John Mathieu

**Agriculture Advisory Committee**

Present

Absent

Elaine Niemann  
William Pandy  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Edward Kralovich

Peter D'Costa

2.

### **Presentation**

Kate Buttolph, Hunterdon Land Trust

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that Kate Buttolph would not be attending the meeting this evening.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion and Approval of May 3, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Karen Hertzog and carried to approve the May 3, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee.

Comments: No comments

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>McNicol,Dodds,Burke,Hertzog Niemann,Kralovich</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Frank,Pandy</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Lubitz,Mathieu,Niciecki, D'Costa</b>

### **Correspondence**

A3992 Summary Bullets SEP 5-19-2011

The Committees reviewed the proposed Bill A3992 to Amend Solar, Wind and Biomass Act (P.L.2009,c.213). Richard Dodds read over the General Provisions, Preserved Farmland Provisions, Right to Farm Provisions, and the Net Effects of the Bill. Richard Dodds noted that this may be more for shore area properties.

A3882 Testimony

The Committees briefly reviewed.

Info on Assembly No. 3992

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol Read over the requirements. The Committees had a brief discussion on Biomass production. Phil Lubitz commented on the article.

3.

He stated that wait until after the election and feels that this should be tabled until further information has been gathered on A3992 Bill.

### **Reports**

#### **Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid** **Report for June, 2011**

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the following report from Liz Schmid:

#### Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Report June 7, 2011

1. Maplewood Farm – After checking with the State, it was determined that preservation would not be any faster through the Direct Easement Purchase program. It is possible that putting the farm in the Municipal PIG would be the quickest way. County Counsel's office has not gotten the option agreements out to farmers yet. I will work on it when I get back.
2. Nothing new from HLT. They continue to wait to hear on pending projects.

William Pandy reported that he had sign up Sandy Makatura for Farmland Preservation. He noted that she has bypassed the County. Sandra McNicol explained that she spoke to Liz Schmid about this and she felt that it would be better to go right to the State.

#### **Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/June and July, 2011**

No information was received for June and July.

### **Old Business**

#### **Kugler Woods MOA**

Richard Dodds stated that the Township has executed the Memorandum of Agreement, and it has been sent to the State by certified mail. He explained that the Hunterdon Land Trust signed it, and now they just need the States signature. He hopes to hear back from the State in the near future. He explained that this is an agreement between the State, the Hunterdon Land Trust and the Township to manage the area, which includes trails, and trail development. There was a discussion on whether open space properties are open for hunters. Richard Dodds noted that all open space land is open for hunting.

#### **Preservation Sign – Melynk – Follow-up**

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that there is nothing new to report at this time.

4.

Spring Hike Discussion – May 21<sup>st</sup> - Review  
(Felix Farm)

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that it was a nice turnout with approximately 20 people who attended. She noted that it is a beautiful piece of property with fields and woodlands that are manageable. She stated that several members from the open space and agriculture advisory committees attended.

Trash Handling On Open Space Properties – Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that the “Carry In Carry- Out” signs have arrived and need to be installed. There was a discussion on where the signs would be put up. There was a suggestion that one be put up at the pond area near the Melnyk property and two to be put up on the Horseshoe Bend preserved property. Elaine Niemann suggested that a sign be put up on the Idell Preserve Property. Richard Dodds offered to take care of putting the signs up.

Discuss Additional Kingwood Properties to Be Sold

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the Township now owns part of the property on the Ukarish farm and the Melnyk farm and if the Township is considering selling these preserved farms in the future. James Burke commented on what was purchased in the past and told the history of the properties. Lee Frank suggested it may be a good idea to sell the property off Rt. 519, the Ukarish property as a wetlands bank. It was noted that 30% of the property is already wetlands. Phil Lubitz suggested that the Township wait to see what can be done at the Melnyk property because the Township is still in delineation right now and reviewing what can be built. He also suggested to wait to see if there will be room left at the Ukarish property after the homes are built by Habitat for Humanity. Everyone agreed to let this sit right now until there is more information about the properties. Sandra McNicol suggested to keep this on the agenda for the September and future meetings as well.

Hunterdon Land Trust – Activity Update - Follow-up Preservation Name for Former  
Clark Property

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that she has not heard much from Kate Buttolph of the Hunterdon Land Trust as to where the Township should go next. She noted that it is probably a good idea to look at the numbers to see where the open space fund is at right now financially, and then maybe by September the committees will be able to sit down and talk about where they would like to go, as far as, purchasing and preserving additional property. Richard Dodds explained that several people had gone into the Clark property to brush hog the trails and the parking lot. He noted that the property is a very wet area.

5.

He noted that he has been encouraging the Hunterdon Land Trust that the new name for the Clark preserved property should be called “Idell Preserve” and that it is a great name for that area.

#### Wetland Banks Update

Lee Frank noted that there is no update at this time.

#### Community Day – Follow-up Discussion

There was a discussion regarding putting a table up to handout maps and a description of the Horseshoe Bend property for everyone to review the new open land park they will have to explore. Richard Dodds and Sandra McNicol discussed what they would do for a table of information for Community Day. Lee Frank offered to bring a pop up tent and a table for the Open Space/Ag. Sandra McNicol suggested that it be set up next to the Environmental Commission’s table.

#### Update on Horseshoe Bend Equestrian Village Property

James Burke noted that the newly preserved property on Horseshoe Bend Road will be called the Horseshoe Bend Park. Richard Dodds noted that there will be rules and regulations created for the park. Jim Burke reviewed the areas that the Township owns. He noted that he and Richard Dodds would like to get a subcommittee formed to discuss the details of the plans for the park. He stated that he is not sure yet of who or how many people will be involved at this time, but that it will be a lot of work to manage this property and trails. Richard Dodds stated that the residents and people interested in using the property will be able to get out and work on the trails and the property. Jim Burke stated that every piece of the property was sold in different areas. He explained that the Township will control the hunting and the building rentals and all the area Kingwood owns. Lee Frank explained the new rules for hunting and noted that they have changed. There was a discussion that the insurance coverage will need to be reviewed for the property. The Committee’s discussed what they would be doing to set up for the ribbon cutting. James Burke explained that it will be in the driveway and up into the property across from Spring Hill Road near the large building, and that the event will be from 10:00AM – 12:00PM. He stated that everyone is welcome. Several members offered to help out for the event.

#### New Business

N/A

#### Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

6.

Secretary Keller announced the following:

NO MEETING IN AUGUST FOR OPEN SPACE - next meeting will be on September 6, 2011.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by James Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8: 55PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cynthia L. Keller,  
Secretary**