

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Regular
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2012**

7:00PM

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:09P.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 19th, 2012, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 11, 2012. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 11, 2012.

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

Sandra McNicol
Phil Lubitz
Richard Dodds
Lee Frank

Absent

Karen Hertzog
John Mathieu
Diana Haywood

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Cynthia Niciecki
Elaine Niemann
Edward Kralovich

Absent

Pete D'Costa
William Pandy

2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of June 5, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol felt that the minutes should be tabled until the September meeting when more of the members from both committees are present. All members present agreed.

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that Farmland Preservation Coordinator, Liz Schmid was not present this evening and no report to review. She asked Elaine Niemann to briefly give an update. Elaine Niemann stated that the Search/Makatura farm appraisal review that the state does is completed and also the second appraisal is also completed. She stated that she and Kate Buttolph are scheduling to meet with Sandra Search and her sisters to talk about the agreement.

Old Business

Kugler Woods MOA

Richard Dodds noted that two weeks ago, he along with approximately ten other people met at the property to work on the trails. He noted that one of the trails that lead back to the woods is very deep. He stated that he discussed this problem with the state. He noted that the Hunterdon Land Trust did receive a grant to work on the trails. He explained what they all did when they all worked on the trails. He stated that they put in a fourteen foot wide concrete structure, which was a dug out section, and then poured cement into it to make the trail wider and larger than it had been. He stated that they were there from 8:30am - 2:30pm. He noted that it was a lot of fun and it is now completed.

3.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

Decker Property Block 24, Lot 8

Sandra McNicol noted that the County approved the Mulligan and the Decker farms. She explained that the Decker farm is continuing and is in motion. She explained that Kate Buttolph from the Land Trust has asked the owner to pay for the appraisal and that this property is continued to be negotiated. Sandra explained that she and Richard Dodds met with Kate Buttolph a few weeks ago. She explained that the township does not have much money to contribute and match at this time towards the purchase of the properties, but that the township does have Green Acres funds to use. She explained that this money can be given to the Land Trust to use towards the purchase and then they can match these funds towards the purchase of the Decker property, the church property and the Covalesky property. She noted that the New Jersey Conservation Foundation is interested in being our leader for the Covalesky property. Richard Dodds explained a few maps that he prepared for Block 12, Lot 25 the church property and Block 12 and Lot 26 the Covalesky property. He explained that one of the maps is an aerial of a view of the properties. The Committees reviewed all the properties surrounding. Richard Dodds also described an old ancient road he found on an old aerial view that went down the property.

Green Acres Funds:

First Reformed Church - Covalesky Property

Resolution No. 2012 - 66 is a resolution that the Township Committee adopted on Thursday, July 5, 2012. Secretary Keller handed out a copy of the resolution to all the members.

Sandra McNicol explained the rush for the resolution and the reasons the Land Trust needed to get it completed for the deadline of the application. She stated that supplemental maps will be added to the project.

New Business

Horseshoe Bend Park Steering Committee

Richard Dodds reviewed the following Horseshoe Bend Park updated report that he provided:

4 .

Horseshoe Bend Update: July 9, 2012

June:

- Orange Trail completed and marked
- Orange/White bypass trail completed and marked.
- New Map created reflecting trail updates – posted on Kingwood Township website
- June 7 - Meeting on Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park.
 - Representatives from Kingwood Township -Parks and Rec, Neighboring properties, Hunting groups and NJ Fish and Wildlife.
 - Draft policy and proposed rules – based on D&R Greenway Wildlife Management Guidelines
- Hunterdon Land Trust – Day on the Land – June 9
 - ~ 50 attendees
- June 29 – Meeting with NJ Parks and Forestry on Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park
 - Met with Patricia Kalleser at Bulls Island – included were Jack and Cindy Niciecki, Tony Gioffre, Elaine Neiman, Tommy Flag (representative) and Richard Dodds to present draft policy and rules.

NJ Parks and Forestry would be interested in working with us if there was a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in place.

Kingwood can do whatever it wants on its side.

If a MOU existed then there could be joint management of the hunting.

Meeting follow-up :

- There is a president for Towns managing hunting on state property – Per Larry Herrighty – NJ Fish and Wildlife via Patricia Kalleser
- The MOU is on Bob Cartica's (NJ Natural Lands Trust) desk. Moved off of desk on Monday, July 1.

Upcoming Events

- July 21, 2012 - Somerset Hills Kennel Club – Dog show and Canine Day in the Park

Action Items:

- Review Hunting Policy and Guidelines
- If adopted – request the Township Committee change the Kingwood Township Parks – Rules ordinance. Change to be made – Allowing deer hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park in accordance with the policy and management guidelines set forth by the Kingwood Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

Attached: HBP Wildlife Management Guidelines Draft 6.13.2012.pdf

Proposed Policy on Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park Draft 6.13.2012.pdf

5.

Kingwood Township – Horseshoe Bend Park: Wildlife Management Guidelines DRAFT 6.13.2012

Kingwood Township – Horseshoe Bend Park has several areas that are open to the public and suitable for deer hunting. Enjoyment of the land and the safety of our visitors is a primary concern of Kingwood Township. The Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission allows deer hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park in order to provide for better land management. Kingwood Township hopes to enter into a long term relationship with the hunting community in order to be able to restore damaged ecosystems without fear that excessive deer browse will make it impossible for native plants to return to Horseshoe Bend Park.

In exchange for deer hunting privileges the individual(s) will:

1. Each hunter will be required to sign the “hold harmless” statement below and return an original signed copy to Kingwood Township. Each hunter must also be familiar with the terms below.
2. Each hunter must carry a minimum of \$1,000,000 in liability insurance. Copies of the insurance certificates are to be provided to Kingwood Township and it will be kept on file. Hunters must be licensed and meet all federal, state, county and municipal laws governing their actions.
3. Each hunter will provide to Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission the make and model of his or her vehicle, and the license plate number.
4. Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission provides access to hunters in order to address wildlife management by reducing the number of deer on the property at Horseshoe Bend Park. The individual hunter will report the results of his or her hunting efforts on or before April 1st. Reporting shall include the tag number(s) of the harvested deer.
5. In addition to the annual fee, (which will be determined annually by the Kingwood Township) Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission requires all hunters to attend a mandatory meeting to discuss hunting in the park and assist in posting the property. The right to hunt may be cancelled if the hunter fails to attend the meeting and participate in posting the property.
6. All State deer hunting regulations apply. Specific season dates and bag limits for deer management zone 11 also apply. Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission encourages hunters on our properties to harvest three antlerless deer for every buck. If Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission personnel determine that hunters are not harvesting enough deer to meet our needs for land restoration the hunter may not be invited back for the next season.
7. Special regulations:
 - a. The greater the number of antlerless deer taken by a group (or individual) the greater the likelihood of being chosen for next year’s management program.

6.

b. Hunting must be from portable tree stands. No permanent or fixed tree stands may be installed. Each stand must clearly display the name, address, telephone number and hunting license number of the hunter. The hunting stands must be removed or moved if requested by Kingwood Township.

c. All motorized vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas and must clearly display the Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission – Horseshoe Bend Park permit. Deer are not to be removed from the property by motorized vehicles except on public roads.

d. Target practice is prohibited.

e. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the property is prohibited.

f. Violation of any conditions herein or any applicable state law or regulation will result in loss of hunting privileges on the property. If this occurs there will be no refund of any fees paid by the hunter. A violation by any individual hunter within a group may result in loss of hunting privileges for the entire group.

This agreement must be formally renewed each year and can be cancelled without cause by Kingwood Township. Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission is, however, committed to maintaining a stable, long-term relationship with the hunting community.

HOLD HARMLESS STATEMENT:

In consideration for the opportunity to hunt on land owned and managed by Kingwood Township, I agree to abide by the terms listed above. Further, I hereby release and hold harmless Kingwood Township, officers, employees and agents from and against any and all loss, costs, and damages to person or property as a result of my hunting and related activities at Horseshoe Bend Park.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Name _____

Proposed Policy on

Deer Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park

DRAFT 6.13.2012

Kingwood Township – Horseshoe Bend Park has several areas that are open to the public and suitable for deer hunting. Enjoyment of the land and the safety of our visitors is a primary concern of Kingwood Township. The Kingwood Township – Parks and Recreation Commission allows deer hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park in order to provide for better land management. Kingwood Township hopes to enter into a long term relationship with the hunting community in order to be able to restore damaged ecosystems without fear that excessive deer browse will make it impossible for native plants to return to Horseshoe Bend Park.

7.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will hold permit "lottery" for each of the deer hunting seasons: Fall Bow, Permit Bow, 6 Day Firearm, Permit Muzzleloader, Permit Shotgun, Winter Bow. Applications can be downloaded from the Townships website or picked up at the Township office from June 1 through August 31. Legal advertisement of the "lottery" will be done on or before May 1 in at least two newspapers servicing Hunterdon County and on the Townships website.

A non-refundable \$5.00 application fee is charged for each lottery application. Each applicant can submit one application for each season. The chance of being awarded a permit in the lottery depends on the number of applicants and the number of permits allocated (permit quota). The permit quota will be based on the number of hunters that can safely hunt in a designated area.

Each successful lottery "winner" will be required to read and sign the Horseshoe Bend Park: Wildlife Management Guidelines and Hold Harmless Statement. (see the Horseshoe Bend Park: Wildlife Management Guidelines) and comply with standards set forth in this document.

No hunting is allowed on Sundays and all State deer hunting regulations apply. Specific season dates and bag limits for deer management zone 11 also apply. Hunters are encouraged to report nonpermitted individuals hunting within the park.

Deer Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park

Richard Dodds reviewed a proposed policy on Deer Hunting in Horseshoe Bend Park. He explained what was discussed at the Parks and Recreation Meeting last evening on July 9, 2012. He explained that there were fees established for permits, and how the Parks and Recreation Committee voted to request that the Township Committee approve hunting at Horseshoe Bend Park. He reviewed information on the Guidelines for Wildlife Management at Horseshoe Bend Park.

Update on Invasive Species Group - Environmental Commission

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the Invasive Species Group gave the Environmental Commission a tour and they learned to identify how to pick out the invasive species. She noted that we could have people from the community volunteer and work on removing the invasive species.

Some people were questioning the herbicides they use to get rid of the species. She explained that they are licensed applicant users and know what they are doing. She noted that there is no problem with the products that they use and that they know how to use them. Sandra McNicol noted that it was very informative and they learned a lot.

8.

Farm Programs - NRCS, Farm Service, Hunterdon County Soil
Conservation - Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol briefly gave an update on additional forms she sent in to accompany the application.

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 8:10P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary**