

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 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 7:07P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol of the Open Space Advisory Committee 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

John Mathieu
Karen Hertzog
Diana Haywood

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Cynthia Niciecki
William Pandy
Elaine Niemann (arrived at 7:35PM)
Ed Kralovich

Absent

Pete D'Costa

2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of November 13, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Phillip Lubitz and carried to approve the November 13, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee with the following corrections:

Correction: (Page 5)- Old Business - Under the Trstensky Property the correction is the following: Under the motion recommending to the Township Committee to consider contributing \$2,200 to put towards the purchase of the Trystensky property, (Cynthia Niciecki voted to **abstain** not **Aye** as noted in the November 13th, 2012 minutes).

Correction: (Page 5) - Under Storm Damage - Richard Dodds explained that he cleared the orange trail of the brush from the storm. Sentence should state: (**Richard Dodds explained that he cleared some of the brush on the orange trail from the storm.**)

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

Correspondence

Resolution from Township of Readington Re: Resolution Supporting Sustainable State Funding Preservation of Open Space, Parks, Farmland and Historic Sites in New Jersey

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that a resolution was received from the Township of Readington supporting Sustainable State Funding Preservation of Open Space, Parks, Farmland and Historic Sites in New Jersey. She explained that the State passed this Bill, therefore, there is no need to do anything regarding this resolution.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid (Report for December, 2012)

3.

Liz Schmid was present and reviewed her report of December 4th, 2012:

Agriculture Advisory Committee Report
December 4, 2012

1. Maplewood Farm - The contract is signed and title work needs to be done by the County. Then we can do a survey.
2. The Mulligan Farm (Bl 33Lot 24) Then appraisals can be done.
3. Helmer and Zander - Appraisals are back and will go to SADC for certified value. Helmer still trying to work a deal with the County.
4. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) -Fee purchase through the State Green Acres program has been formally approved.
5. Goeckeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - The application is still under review at the State.
6. Gross - This is still in limbo. The landowner is now considering one or two severable exceptions as the certified appraisal did not meet his expectations. This would require going back to CADB and SADC for approval again. The application for leftover FFRP money is in.
7. Marramore Inc. ((Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres -According to HLT, this is being worked on as a Green Acres direct purchase.
8. Maritan (Bl 33 Lot 25), 104.71 acres - Sharon Gonen, the lead heir in the estate situation, has submitted an application to Green Acres for direct purchase of this property. It adjoins the Clark property and has Lockatong frontage. They had approached SADC, but the property did not rank high enough to qualify for the farmland fee simple program.
9. The Wydner family signed a 120 day option with SADC which allows the State to order appraisals. Hopefully, this is on the road for preservation.
10. Clark - (Bl 33 Lot 25) 2 acres. I referred him to HLT due to our financial situation. Kate is hoping to get an appraisal for \$120,000 for the lot and then buy it with for \$60,000 with Township Green Acres money if the Township is interested.

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She is going to send him an option agreement. He has pulled the lot off the market until probate gets underway.

11. Chaitman - HLT may apply for a County non-profit grant for this, or maybe want to do a mixture of farmland and open space. There is FFRP money for this farm. It is still up in the air for the rest.

12. Coveleskey and "The Farm" church property - The Township application for cooperative funding from the County has been recommended to the Freeholders. Expect an answer by the end of the year.

The Committees all thanked Liz Schmid for her hard work in 2012 and her reports.

Meeting Info at Hunterdon Land Trust

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that there will be a meeting on December 12, 2012 at the Hunterdon Land Trust to speak about the Covelesky and the Church properties. She stated that they will be meeting with the State of New Jersey Soil Conservation Foundation representative, Alex Bacon.

Old Business

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

Sandra McNicol noted that the list for properties to be preserved keeps getting longer.

Trstensky Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed a memo from Katherine Buttolph regarding contributions needed to complete the purchase of the Trstensky property. She stated that this will be forwarded to the Township Committee to decide what they would like to do. There was a discussion on what would be done with the property if it is not preserved. She noted that the township originally approved and made a commitment to contribute \$59,000, and that the Land Trust needs an additional \$4,370 to purchase the property.

5.

She noted that the majority of the members of the Open Space and Ag Committees at their last month's meeting voted to ask the Township Committee to consider contributing \$2,200 towards the purchase of the Trstensky.

Horseshoe Bend Park Steering Committee

Richard Dodds noted several volunteers came to help out on Sunday afternoon December 2nd to help clean up the fallen down trees along the trails at the Horseshoe Bend Park from the recent hurricane. He explained that they cut over a hundred trees and that ninety percent of the trails are cleared. He stated it was a very good turnout and that everyone worked very hard. He thanked everyone that came out to volunteer and appreciated everyone's help. He noted that on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 12:30pm there will be another cleanup day. He explained when hunting season begins for shotgun and muzzleloader in December, and recommended that everyone using the park should wear orange. Richard Dodds stated that not many shotguns were fired on the first day of shotgun season. He noted that folks from Frenchtown are interested in taking some of the wood off the park grounds. There was a brief discussion of all the storm damage from the Hurricane in October. Lee Frank had some questions about why the open space committee is so involved in the Horseshoe Bend Park. Richard Dodds explained that the Parks and Recreation Committee votes on all the decisions for the Horseshoe Bend Park and they approve all the applications to use any of the facilities. Phil Lubitz noted that the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees would like to continue being informed about what is happening at the Horseshoe Bend Park and stated that it is open space land, which is what the Open Space and Ag Committees meet and talk about.

New Business

Schedule a Date for the Reorganization Mtg. in January 2013

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that the first Tuesday of the month is January 1, New Year's day, which is a holiday. The second Tuesday of the month of January is the 8th, which is open to schedule our reorganization meeting. All the members agreed that January 8, 2013 at 7:00PM would be the date for the reorganization meeting.

6.

Memo from the Hunterdon County Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Programs Re: Annual Resolution to Bank & Reserve the 2012 Municipal Allocation of Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Funds

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the memo from the Hunterdon County Open Space and Historic Preservation Trust Programs. Elaine Niemann stated that this will be discussed at the next Township Committee meeting on December 17th and a resolution may be considered and approved. Sandra McNicol reviewed a memo from Catherine Suttle. She would like the members to look over this information and help decide where a meeting could be held.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Sandra McNicol thanked everyone for coming out to the meetings and serving on the committees this year.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary