

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Regular
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2013
7:00PM**

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05P.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 December 20, 2012, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on December 7, 2012. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on December 7, 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

Phil Lubitz
Sandra McNicol
Diana Haywood
John Mathieu
Lee Frank
Karen Hertzog (7:12)

Absent

None

2.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Richard Dodds
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Edward Kralovich

Absent

Pete D'Costa

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of February 5, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to approve the February 5, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:

**Aye - Lubitz, Haywood, McNicol, Mathieu,
Dodds, Pandy, Niciecki, Kralovich**
Nay - None
Abstain - Frank
Absent - Hertzog, D'Costa

Motion and Approval of March 5, 2013 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 March 5, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye - Lubitz, McNicol, Dodds, Niciecki, Kralovich
Nay - None
Abstain - Frank, Haywood, Mathieu, Pandy
Absent - Hertzog, D'Costa

Correspondence

**Letter from the State Agriculture Development Committee
SADC Easement Acquisition Offer Letter Block 14, Lot 20**

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid (Report for May, 2013)

3.

Liz Schmid reviewed the following report for May:

Agricultural Advisory Committee Report

May 7, 2013

1. Maplewood Farm - This still has not closed, but it is getting close. It should be going to the Freeholders for final approval next week. It is waiting for Susan Craft at the State to get back and sign it. Then, hopefully it will close.
2. Aljam 1 and 2 - Aljam 1- (Bl 18, lot 5) 133= acres, Aljam 2 - (Block 22, lots 1, 2 and 2.08) a total of 49.78 acres. Across the street from each other on the corner of Fitzer and Barbertain-Point Breeze Rds. The family is looking to preserve or sell this property. I had referred them to the State for one of the State programs and spoke to the State about the farms, but the family has not contacted the State. I will make contact with the family again to see if there is any interest at all.
3. The Mulligan Farm (Bl 33Lot 24) - ?
4. Helmer (Bl 2, lot 5) and Zander(Bl 5, lot 3) - Both Mr. Helmer and Mr. Zander have agreed to the County offer, so they will go to next CADB meeting for final approval. After that all the nitty gritty stuff starts. We will have a problem funding these farms as we do not have the money in the open space fund that we thought we would have when the applications went in two and a half years ago. Both owners are aware that the Township does not have funds available to fund the projects at this time. Mr Helmer has said he is willing to do anything necessary to try to get the needed funds. HLT is willing to make a FRPP application for the farm, and I am reaching out to Mr. Helmer to get him to fill out the needed forms. Zander would probably not be eligible for those funds as the farm is much smaller. I will be exploring other options for that farm. . Helmer would cost about \$78,000 in Township funds and Zander would be about \$38,000
5. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) -Fee purchase through the State Green Acres program is in progress.
6. Goekeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - The application is still under review at the State.
7. Gross - The landowners have signed off on the County offer. There is a FRPP application in at the State for this farm to pay the Township portion of the funding.

4.

8. Marramore Inc. ((Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres -According to HLT, this is being worked on as a Green Acres direct purchase. It has also been approved for inclusion in the County PIG.
9. 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 Locketong frontage. They had approached SADC, but the property did not rank high enough to qualify for the farmland fee simple program. CADB rejected this property for the County PIG
10. Wydner - (Bl 14, Lot 20) This farm continues to move forward in the State Easement Purchase program. The family has accepted the State offer.

The Committee Members thanked Liz Schmid for her report.

New Business

Preserved Farm Signs

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed several properties that could use preserved signs. She would like to ask the owners if they would be interested in putting up a sign on their property. John Mathieu suggested that a letter be sent out to the owners to encourage them. A few members expressed their opinion on whether signs should be put up. William Pandy feels that the signs are not an advantage to the farmers. Phil Lubitz feels that it is good for the township, but not good for the farmers. He suggested that a sign be made and put up that states "Kingwood Township is a farm friendly community". The majority of the members feel that a letter should go out to the owners giving them the option to put a sign up on their property. Sandra McNicol suggested that the letter include a link to the township's website. Richard Dodds noted that there is a map that shows all the preserved properties that could also be added to the website for the public to review.

NPS/Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Meeting Report

Sandra McNicol stated that she and Richard Dodds attended the meeting. They reviewed several topics that were discussed at the meeting. She stated that she sent everyone links and information they obtained at the meeting to their e-mails.

5.

She noted that they talked about an entire overview of their park systems. There were several people in attendance, including the Army Core of Engineers, some river town residents and organizations.

Copy of the National Wild Scenic River Values

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she sent this copy of the National Scenic River Values for all the member's information.

Discussion: Threatened and Endangered Species-Delayed Mowing of Fields

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she would like to have the opinion of the farmers regarding the threatened and endangered species. She talked about the bobolinks on several of the properties in the township. She reviewed the life of the bobolink and how long it has been around. William Pandy who is a farmer in the township noted when he started mowing, which he stated was a little later in the season. Richard Dodds noted the areas the township has control over mowing at the Horseshoe Bend Park.

Old Business

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

There was a discussion regarding no movement on the "Farm Property" as of this date. Richard Dodds gave a brief review. He noted that there is a date being determined for a closing. He explained that the kiosk at the Kugler Woods has been put up on the property and that the ground was very hard and difficult to get the post in the ground. He stated that it is cemented into the ground. He stated that the trail is now opened after having a tree down across it.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

Richard Dodds stated that Horseshoe Bend Park had their first wedding ceremony at the top of the main entrance. He explained the wedding and stated it was very exciting.

6.

He noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee approved to install an additional bathroom in the Morton Building, and to purchase tables and chairs for the inside so that there can be events held at the park. He noted that he is also looking into the prices for turf for the inside of the building, which the dog organizations have expressed they would like to have for their dog shows. He stated that they are willing to pay extra rent to help pay for the turf cover on the floor of the Morton Building.

Richard Dodds noted that an anonymous person has been building benches at the Horseshoe Bend Park out of wood. Everyone thanked Richard Dodds for all he has done for the park. Sandra McNicol noted that a few weeks ago there was a clean-up day at the School and Park Walkway. She stated that there were several people who showed up and helped clean up all the debris laying in the woods and on the ground that blow out from the recycling center.

There was a brief discussion on how there are hardly any bees around this year and the lack of bats.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by John Mathieu, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary