

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Regular
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 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 January 17th, 2013, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 10th, 2013. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 10, 2013.

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
Lee Frank

Absent

Karen Hertzog
John Mathieu

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Richard Dodds
William Pandy
Ed Kralovich
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent

Pete D'Costa

2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of June 4, 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 June 4, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees.

No Comments.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

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

Liz Schmid was present and reviewed the following report:

Agricultural Advisory Committee Report

September 3, 2013

1. Maplewood Farm - Request for reimbursement of ancillary costs has been submitted to the State.
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 Barbertown-Point Breeze Rds. After no response from the family for several months, the primary family member e-mailed his interest again in mid-July. I emailed him again with encouragement and the information he needs to make an application with the State for fee simple State acquisition. He has not yet contacted Stefanie Miller, the State representative.

3.

She has emailed him offering to meet him anywhere he would find convenient. I will continue to try to touch base with the family from time to time. **The Township does not currently have these properties on its farmland preservation wish list, nor in the Township Farmland Preservation Plan. Even if this goes for State Direct Easement Purchase, the State will want something from the Township supporting the preservation efforts.**

The Open Space and Ag Committees feel that the township should support the preservation of the Aljam 1, Block 18, Lot 5 and Aljam 2- Block 22, Lots 1, 2, and 2.08 a total of 49.78 acres.

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to approve to send a letter from the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees to the Township Committee recommending that the township support the preservation of the Aljam 1 - Block 18, Lot 5 and Aljam 2 - Block 22, Lots 1, 2, and 2.08, a total of 49.78 acres.

Roll Call Vote:

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

3. The Mulligan Farm (Bl 33 Lot 24) - Certified value approved by the SADC at their June meeting. The landowner has decided to continue with preservation. He has signed a contract with HLT and is up for final approval with CADB and SADC.
4. Helmer Farm (Bl 2, lot 5)- Mr. Helmer has agreed to the County offer, and received final approval from CADB. Mr Helmer is aware that the Township does not have funds available to fund the projects at this time. The Helmer farm has been approved for FFRP money. Helmer would cost about \$78,000 in Township funds. The farm will be on the September SADC agenda for final approval.
5. Zander Farm (Bl 5, lot 3) - Mr. Zander has agreed to the County offer, and received final approval from CADB. Kate Buttolph of the Hunterdon Land Trust is looking at Zander to see if there is any possibility that it would be eligible for Federal funds as the farm is smaller.

4.

6. Mr. Zander has become comfortable with the federal application. The Township obligation for Zander would be about \$38,000. The farm will be on the September SADC agenda for final approval.
7. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) - **Nothing new.** Fee purchase through the State Green Acres program is in progress.
8. Goeckeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - **Nothing new.** The application is still under review at the State.
9. Gross -Received final approval from SADC in June. Mr. Gross has the contract from the County, but wants his attorney to look it over before signing it. There is a FRPP application in at the State for this farm to pay the Township portion of the funding.
10. Marramore Inc. ((Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres - **Nothing new.** According to HLT, this is being worked on as a Green Acres direct purchase. It has also been approved for inclusion in the County FIG.
Maritan (Bl 33 Lot 25), 104.71 acres - **Nothing new.** 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. CADB rejected this property for the County FIG.
11. Wydner - (Bl 14, Lot 20) - **Nothing new.** The farm continues to move forward in the State Easement Purchase program. The family has accepted the State offer.
12. In order to continue applying for municipal FIG funds, it is necessary for the Township to update its FIG plan every year. In order to do that, it is necessary to tell the County in September that the Township intends to do it. As I am going to be away, I have given the County a letter to that effect. If we decide later in the fall that we do not want to put in the up-date, we can let the County know at that time. But the Township does have to let me know in October if in fact we want to up-date the plan.

5.

The Committees thanked Liz Schmid for her report.

New Business

Community Day, September 21st Noon to 5:00 Open Space Booth
Open Space Fund - State Level

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that there will be an Open Space table with displays set up at our township Annual Community Day on September 21st at the Kingwood Park. There will also be information for the public.

Old Business

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

- United Reformed Church Property

Letter from the DEP re: Notice of Certified Market Value -
United Reform Church of Somerset

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the letter from the NJDEP, which explained the certification of market value for block 12, lot 25. She noted that this determination was completed after three assessments had been done.

Richard Dodds reviewed the funding sources of the property and stated that the owners would like to proceed. He noted that the township is waiting to hear from the county.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

- North Jersey Butterfly Club - August 11th
Field Trip

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that on August 11th, there was a New Jersey Butterfly Club that gathered at the Horseshoe Bend Park. She explained that a few of her friends attended the park that day and she shared what they had learned about the butterflies. She noted that there were three rare species of butterflies. They found a rare breed called the "Grey Comma". Richard Dodds noted that he met a couple who were at the park looking for butterflies, and he encouraged them to go to the upper field where the grass had not been cut yet. There was a question as to when the best time to cut the fields would be, so that it would not disturb the birds and the butterflies. William Pandy explained how he has dates to follow from the State as to when he can cut the hay.

6.

Richard Dodds noted that the township will continue to manage the fields the best they can for everyone.

There was a discussion on the TV show "Too Cute", which is aired on the Animal Planet channel. Richard Dodds noted that there were representatives from the show filming around the Kingwood Park in addition to the Horseshoe Bend Park the past few weeks.

Richard Dodds noted that a group was at the Horseshoe Bend Park for a "Sky Party" looking at the stars. He explained all the trail work that has recently been worked on and everyone that helped out. He showed a picture of the trail on the overhead projector.

Richard Dodds discussed a preserved property he and his family took a hike through in Holland Township. He described all the invasive species they saw and took pictures of that day. He described one called a mile a minute that was all over the property. He noticed more in other areas of Kingwood after returning.

Phil Lubitz mentioned a property in Kingwood Township that will be open to the public for the Garden Conservancy's 2013 Open Days Program. He explained that it is an open house to view private gardens. The property participating in the township will be at 208 Federal Twist Road, Stockton, NJ 08559 on Saturday, October 19th, 2013. This garden is called "The Garden at Federal Twist". Phil Lubitz encouraged anyone interested to go see the gardens.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

No public comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Lee Frank, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary

