

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Reorganization and Regular
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2014
7:00PM

Call to Order

A reorganization meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:09P.M. Vice Chairwoman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements. A joint meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees will follow.

Notice Requirements

Notification of the time, date and place of this meeting has been published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News, and has been posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building at least 48 hours prior to this meeting and has been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

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

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sandra McNicol	Diana Haywood
Phil Lubitz	John Mathieu
Karen Hertzog	Lee Frank
Heather Haberle	

Agriculture Advisory Committee

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Richard Dodds	William Pandy
Ed Kralovich	
Cynthia Niciecki	
Susan Goeckeler	

2.

Reorganization Meeting for the Open Space Advisory Committee

Nomination for Chairperson for Open Space Advisory

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Karen Hertzog and carried to nominate **Sandra McNicol** Chairwoman to the Open Space Advisory Committee for the year 2014.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Lubitz, McNicol, Hertzog, Haberle
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Haywood, Mathieu, Frank

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Open Space Advisory

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to nominate **Lee Frank** Vice Chairman to the Open Space Advisory Committee for the year 2014.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Lubitz, McNicol, Hertzog, Haberle
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Haywood, Mathieu, Frank

Approval of Minutes

Motion and approval of November 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Karen Hertzog and carried to approve the November 12, 2013 minutes for the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees meeting.

Comments: No comments

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- McNicol, Hertzog, Dodds, Kralovich
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Lubitz, Niciecki, Haberle, Goeckeler
	Absent	- Haywood, Mathieu, Frank, Pandy

Motion and Approval of January 7, 2014 Reorganization Meeting Minutes of the Agriculture Advisory Committee

3.

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Edward Kralovich and carried to approve the January 7, 2014 Reorganization meeting minutes for the Agriculture Advisory Committees meeting.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Dodds, Kralovich, Goeckeler
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Niciecki
	Absent	- Pandy

Chairwoman of the Open Space Advisory Committee Sandra McNicol took over the meeting at this time.

Correspondence

18th Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the information regarding the 18th Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid (Report for February, 2014)

Liz Schmid reviewed the following report for February 2014:

Open Space/Agriculture Committee
February 4, 2014

1. Aljam 1 and 2 - **No Change** - 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. No response from the family and a for sale sign on the property.
2. The Mulligan Farm (Bl 33 Lot 24) - Certified value approved by the SADC at their June meeting. He has signed a contract with HLT and received final approval from CADB. HLT is doing final contract work.
3. Helmer Farm (Bl 2, lot 5) - **NO CHANGE** - Mr. Helmer has agreed to the County offer, and received final approval from CADB, SADC and FFRP. The contract should be going out this week.

4.

4. Zander Farm (Bl 5, lot 3) - **No Change** - Mr. Zander has agreed to the County offer, and received final approval from CADB. HLT has submitted an application for FRPP money. Because there is no township or Federal money assured at this time, the SADC has put off granting final approval. HLT hopes to hear from FFRP about funding in the very near future.
5. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) - **Nothing new.** Fee purchase through the State Green Acres program is in progress. They are near closing.
6. Goeckeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - I have heard **Nothing New.**
7. Gross -Received final approval from SADC in June and has FFRP funding in place. Mr. Gross has signed the contract with the County, and the survey has been completed. Some minor mislabeling and miswording are being corrected.
8. 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.
9. 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 the County FIG.
10. Guy DeSapio has put in Direct Easement Purchase applications for two areas along Ridge Rd. The first area is Bl 6, Lots 12 and 13.01 (@ 70 acres total). The second area is Block 5, Lot 6 (69.54 acres) which extends into Frenchtown for maybe 20 acres more.

5.

11. Stefanie at SADC has not ranked the farms yet so does not know how well they will score and therefore whether or not they can be funded. It would be lovely.
12. Has anyone had a chance to speak to an attorney about having some sort of fund available for funding technical things?
13. I am attaching Kate's report from HLT.

Everyone thanked Liz for her report.

Richard Dodds brought up a map on the overhead projector and reviewed all the properties discussed in Liz Schmid's report for all the new members on the committees.

There was a discussion on the amount of acres Kingwood Township has preserved. The members discussed many several ways to preserve properties in the township. Liz Schmid explained that the State of New Jersey is working with the land owners, and there are properties that the township works along with the Land Trust to preserve properties also.

There was a discussion regarding what can be done on preserved farms. Liz Schimd responded.

Liz Schmid asked if anyone found out if a separate fund can be collected from the citizens to be put towards preservation. Richard Dodds noted that there has not been anything discussed at this time.

Liz Schmid explained that the County is working on their economic plans, and they would like input from the township's Ag Committee and see if they had any ideas for strengthening the wildlife.

New Business

2013-2017 New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan NJDEP Green Acres Program -

The Committees briefly discussed the NJ Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plan. Richard Dodds noted that the Township Committee will be discussing this at their next meeting with Chairwoman Debbie Kratzer of the Environmental Commission.

Old Business

6.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

Liz Schmid supplied the Committees with an update from the Hunterdon Land Trust.

Sandra McNicol explained and reviewed the memo from the HLT.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

Richard Dodds noted that there is no update at this time.

Ukarish Property - Update

Richard Dodds noted that the hunting on the Ukarish property is going well. He explained that there are seven hunters currently signed up to hunt at this time. He explained that he met with the last two applicants to hunt on Sunday. He explained that he reviewed the rules and regulations of the property. He explained that all the hunters have been very pleasant to work with.

Ed Kralovich noted that the Maple trees are ready to be tapped at the end of this month.

Richard Dodds commented on all the snow mobiles that have been running in the township with all the snow that has fallen this season. There was a brief discussion on how the snow mobiles destroy the roots of many plants.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

No public comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:21P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary**