

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

Call to Order

A Regular meeting of the Joint Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees was called to order at 7:05P.M. Chairwoman of the Open Space Advisory Committee Sandra McNicol called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

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	
Phil Lubitz	
Diana Haywood	
Lee Frank	
John Mathieu	
Heather Haberle	
Karen Hertzog	

Agriculture Advisory Committee

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

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Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of February 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Joint Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to approve the February 4, 2014 minutes for the Joint Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees meeting.

Comments: No comments

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

Correspondence

Farm Bill Newspaper Article

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the newspaper article regarding the Farm Bill.

Reports

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

Liz Schmid provided her report for the meeting, but was not present at the meeting. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the following Ag report from Liz Schmid:

Open Space/Agriculture Committee
March 4, 2014

I am leaving before the crack of dawn, so will not be able to attend tonight's meeting. I am going to list the projects that have had some type of change since last month first. I will then list the farms that are still on the radar, but have not moved along since last month.

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1. 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).
2. The second area is Block 5, Lot 6 (69.54 acres) which extends into Frenchtown for maybe 20 acres more. Stefanie at SADC has ranked the Block 6, Lots 12 and 13.01 farm.
3. She has sent the Township a letter in your packet asking for Township support (approval, no money) of this preservation project. I would hope that the Committees would back this project and the Mayor will sign the letter.
4. 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. It is scheduled to close on March 12.
5. Helmer Farm (Bl 2, lot 5) - Mr. Helmer decided to decrease the size of the exception area from 5 acres to two. This has necessitated re-approval from SADC, which has been accomplished. RFP for the survey is going out.
6. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) -. Fee purchase through the State Green Acres program is in progress, but has been slowed by the death of the owner. Estate issues are being worked on.
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. However, some minor survey changes are necessitating further SADC review.
8. Marramore Inc. ((Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres - According to HLT, is on track to close with Green Acres Direct purchase.
9. Oakes (Block 20, Lot 7) - This Green Acres Direct application is on track to close sometime this year.
10. Podpora (Bl 24, Lot 16) - 7.6 acres around the Lockatong. Scheduled to close today (March 4).
11. I have spoken to Patti at HLT about the possibility of having a dedicated fund at HLT for Kingwood residents to contribute extra funds for preservation projects in Kingwood. She is thinking about it and will then take it to their Board.

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12. Milford (Block 15, Lot 1) - 39 acres. **No Change.** HLT has submitted an application for FFRP money for this farm.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Goekeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - I have heard **Nothing New.**
16. 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.
17. 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 Fitzner and Barbertain-Point Breeze Rds. No response from the family

New Business

Acknowledgement of Kate Buttolph of Hunterdon Land Trust

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that Kate Buttolph of the Hunterdon Land Trust is moving and will no longer be with the Land Trust. She explained that Kate Buttolph has been with the Land Trust since 2007 and has helped the township preserve approximately 1000 acres. She noted that when the township ran out of money, Kate Buttolph find other sources to help put towards the purchase of properties.

Sandra McNicol noted that she, Elaine Niemann and Richard Dodds will be putting together a resolution in honor of Kate Buttolph for all that she did for Kingwood Township.

5.

She reviewed all the properties and situations, which Kate Buttolph helped preserve and assisted the township to purchase.

She explained that the township would like to give her something special in appreciation for all that she did for Kingwood Township. Sandra McNicol explained that she will be framing two photos taken from different areas within Horseshoe Bend Park to give to her. She held up copies of the pictures that will be given to Kate Buttolph. It was noted that a resolution will be adopted this week at the Township Committee meeting in honor of Kate Buttolph. She will make arrangements to meet with her to present her with the resolution and the framed pictures. Everyone expressed how Kate Buttolph will be missed.

Draft Letter Supporting Trail Grants - Newspaper Article in Support From New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Executive Director

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol discussed the draft letter supporting trails grants as requested. There was discussion of who would be sending the letter. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol suggested that it come from the Open Space and Ag Committees. Mayor Lubitz feels it should come from the Chief Operating Office of the township, which is usually the Mayor, as it may have more of an impact. It was decided that Mayor Lubitz will be the person to send the letter to Robert Martin, N.J. DEP Commissioner, and urge him to put a trail grant administrator on the job immediately.

Acknowledgement of Ted Blew

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that she wanted to mention a farmer who is not a resident of Kingwood Township, but from Franklin Township. She noted that he passed away on February 17th 2014 at the age of 67. She explained that she found an article regarding Ted Blew, and according to the article, Ted Blew started as a grain farmer in 1977 and realized he was competing with farmers in the mid-west and decided to go into marketing selling bedding and popcorn. He eventually sold only vegetables and other products to the Union Square Market in New York City. Some of the items sold were peppers of all sorts, beef, pork, herbs and sunflowers. Sandra McNicol explained that his farm was on Oak Grove Road on the Pittstown side. She noted that it is currently an active working farm by the family members. Everyone thanked Sandra for the story.

6.

18th Annual Conservation Rally

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed. She noted that she has never been to this event and is planning on attending.

Letter to the Mayor from the State Ag Development Committee
Re: Application for Farmland Preservation, Block 6, Lots 12
and 13.01

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the letter and noted that this is the DeSapio property on Ridge Road.

William Pandy noted that he feels that this property along with many other properties should be preserved.

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Ed Kralovich and carried to recommend to the Township Committee that the Mayor sign the letter of support to preserve Block 6, Lots 12 and 13.01.

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

Old Business

2013-2017 New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation
Plan - NJDEP Green Acres Program - Continued Discussion from
Last Month

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol briefly reviewed.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

Nothing new to report other than Kate Buttolph is leaving.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

Richard Dodds gave an update on the Horseshoe Bend Park. He explained that the southern entrance has been temporarily closed due to the ice buildup on the driveway area.

7.

Church Property

Richard Dodds noted that they continue to work on the check list for the property.

Ukarish Property - Update

Richard Dodds gave an update on the property. He noted that the bow hunting went well and the barn is no longer on the property. He explained that most of the metal has been recycled. He noted that everyone benefited from the building coming down.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Ed Kravolich shared a life experience he had 10 years ago. He expressed that he had a heart condition and how he is so grateful to be alive today. He handed out several stickers from the New Jersey Farm Bureau for everyone to keep.

Several members shared other stories at the end of the meeting.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Lee Frank and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary**