

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2014
7:00PM

Call to Order

There were not enough members on the Open Space Advisory Committee for a quorum.

The Regular meeting of the Agriculture Advisory Committees 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.

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

Present

Sandra McNicol
Karen Hertzog

Absent

Phil Lubitz
Diana Haywood
John Mathieu
Lee Frank
Heather Haberle

The Agriculture Advisory Committee will be having a meeting this evening. Vice Chairwoman of the Committee Cynthia Niciecki Chaired the meeting.

2.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Absent

Cynthia Niciecki William Pandy
Richard Dodds
Susan Goeckeler
Edward Kralovich

Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Ed Kralovich and carried to table the approval of the March 4, 2014 minutes until next month's meeting in May. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Correspondence

Tour de Open Space - Sunday, April 27 Prallsville Mill,
Stockton NJ

Chairwoman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the information for the event at the Prallsville Mill on April 27th, 2014. It was discussed that it is going to be a 35 mile bike ride starting on Route 29 at the Prallsville Mill in Stockton NJ beginning at 8:30a.m until 3:00p.m. The cost is \$45 per person. The event will be rain or shine. Registration is limited to 300 people.

NJSPOTLIGHT - Article Re: Bill Earmarking Funds for Open-Space
Preservation Clears Committee

Chairwoman Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the article regarding the Bill Earmarking Funds for Open-Space Preservation Clears Committee. There was a brief discussion.

Stream Bank Clean-Up and Native Species Planting - April 5, 2014
10:00am - 1:00pm

The Agriculture Advisory Committee discussed the Stream Bank Clean-Up and Native Species Planting to be held on April 5th from 10:00a.m until 1:00pm. The flyer noted to where work cloths, gloves, boots and outerwear.

3.

Vice Chairwoman Cynthia Niciecki noted that this is open to anyone who would like to volunteer for the clean-up and planting native species at the Kingwood Park on Union Road. Richard Dodds reviewed what the Parks and Recreation Committee learned from Bob O'Neil from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, who is involved with the Stream Restoration Project at the Kingwood Park.

New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign - Free Tree Seedlings Giveaway - April 12, 2014

Chairwoman Cynthia Niciecki reviewed the flyer for the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, which is a program sponsored by the New Jersey State Forestry Services Community Forestry Program and State Forest Nursery, Soil Conservation Districts, Sustainable Jersey, Arbor Day Foundation, BJ's Wholesale Club and FedEx. She explained that this is a program to help replant communities damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

She noted that the township has applied for the program and it will be for the first 200 Kingwood residents who will receive 5 native tree seedlings to plant on their Kingwood Township property. It is a pledge that each family will promise to plant the trees within two days and to care for them properly. She noted that instructions will be provided.

The free tree seedlings giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th from 9:00am until noon at the Horseshoe Bend Park at the south entrance, across from Spring Hill Road.

"Press Release" - NJ Tree Recovery Campaign Free Tree Seedlings to Residents in Kingwood Township

Chairwoman Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the following press release to all the members present.

Reports

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

CADB Liaison, Liz Schmid reviewed the following report for April:

Open Space/Agriculture Committee April 1, 2014

4.

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.

1. Guy DeSapio has put in Direct Easement Purchase applications for two areas along Ridge Rd.
2. The first area is Bl 6, Lots 12 and 13.01 (@ 70 acres total).
3. The second area is Block 5, Lot 6 (69.54 acres) that extends into Frenchtown for maybe 20 acres more. The SADC is working with the owners on a configuration on this lot. He also owns lot 6.02 that disrupts the flow of the farm and the State would like to change that configuration. There are two suggestions. One is to include the 6.02 lot in the application. The second is to exclude the house on lot 6 and include the acreage from 6.02. The State was wondering of the Township would be amenable to allowing a 2 acre lot for the house? Or would a lot line adjustment be necessary. Our Committees cannot decide this issue but might like to think about implications. Stefanie at SADC has ranked the Block 6, Lots 12 and 13.01 farm, and the Township has given it's blessing.
4. The Mulligan Farm (Bl 33 Lot 24) - Easement closed on March 12.
5. 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 Fitzner and Barbertown-Point Breeze Rds.. The owner resurfaced in mid-March again expressing interest in preservation despite the 'for sale' signs on the property.
6. I have again urged him to get in touch with the State for the Direct Easement Purchase or Fee Simple programs. As of Monday morning, he had not yet done so.
7. Gross -Received final approval from SADC in June and has FFRP funding in place.

5.

8. Mr. Gross has signed the contract with the County, and the survey has been completed. Comments on the new survey have come back from the SADC and some small changes have to be done on the survey. SADC has a June time frame for closing.
9. Helmer Farm (Bl 2, lot 5) - Mr. Helmer decided to decrease the size of the exception are from 5 acres to two. This has necessitated re-approval from SADC, which has been accomplished.
10. The title work has turned up two issues that must be addressed by the attorneys. The survey has been ordered.
11. Podpora (Bl 24, Lot 16) - 7.6 acres around the Lockatong.
Preservation closed on March 4.
12. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) -. **No Change**. 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.
13. Marramore Inc. ((Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres -**No Change**. According to HLT, is on track to close with Green Acres Direct purchase.
14. Oakes (Block 20, Lot 7) - **No Change**. This Green Acres Direct application is on track to close sometime this year.
15. **No Change**. 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.
16. Milford (Block 15, Lot 1) - 39 acres. **No Change**. HLT has submitted an application for FFRP money for this farm.
17. 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.

6.

18. Goeckeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - I have heard **Nothing New**.
19. 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.
20. 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.

The members present all thanked Liz for her report for April.

New Business

KT Public Open Space and Preserved Farms Updated Map - March 2014

Additions Are: Block 14 Lot 27 Cooley 10/24/13
 Block 24 Lot 16 Podpora 1/2014
 Block 33 Lot 14.05 Clark Propert 11/11/13

Vice Chairwoman Cynthia Niciecki reviewed the additional properties listed above. Richard Dodds reviewed them on the overhead projector.

NJ Audubon Citizen Science Bird Survey - Horseshoe Bend Park

Chairwoman of the Open Space Advisory Committee Sandra McNicol reviewed. She noted that she contacted the person who is in charge of the stewardship of the NJ Audubon and spoke to them regarding including the Horseshoe Bend Park in their survey. She noted that they will come out and mark the fields and observe the birds for 5 minutes and make notes as to what is happening with the bobolinks. She was hoping to convince someone to spend time searching for nests and track down the species. She stated that she is not skilled enough to know about the bobolinks, but would like to find someone that would know more about them.

Old Business

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

7.

Richard Dodds noted that the Church property will be closing soon. The Township Committee will be approving the last minute details for the closing. He explained a few details about the property that are currently being addressed.

Open Space Management - Meetings by ANJEC

There was a brief discussion regarding the meetings which are scheduled on Thursday, April 10th at Mt. Holly Twp. Courtroom in Mt. Holly, and Tuesday, April 29th at the Essex County Environment Center. Both meetings will be from 7:00pm until 9:00pm if anyone is interested.

Copy of Resolution for Kate Buttolph

Vice Chairwoman Cynthia Niciecki read aloud the following Resolution adopted by the Township Committee on March 6, 2014, which has been given to Kate Buttolph for all that she has done for the township.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 - 19

Whereas, Kate Buttolph is the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Director for the Hunterdon Land Trust, an organization whose mission is to preserve farmland and open space in Hunterdon County, to promote local farming, sustainability and the public appreciation of Hunterdon County's natural beauty, and

Whereas, since 2007, Kate has been instrumental in preserving open space and farmland in Kingwood Township, and

Whereas, Kate was instrumental in preserving open space in Kingwood Township, including Horseshoe Bend Park, the Idell Preserve, Copper Creek Preserve, and Muddy Run Preserve, and

Whereas, Kate was instrumental in preserving farmland in Kingwood Township, including the Middleton/Ramirez, Maplewood, Felix, and Augustine farms, among others, and

Whereas, with Kate's support, Kingwood Township preserved over 1,000 acres of combined farmland and open space during her tenure with the Hunterdon Land Trust, and

8.

Whereas, Kate was largely responsible for authoring the Memorandum of Agreement between Kingwood Township and the NJ DEP for the management of the preserved open space at Horseshoe Bend and Kugler Woods, which substantially facilitated the Township's ability to maximize the usability and maintenance of these preserved parcels, paving the way for additional future collaboration with the NJ DEP of this nature, and

Whereas, Kate helped Kingwood Township put into place methodologies for monitoring conservation easements here, refusing to allow heat, bugs, multiflora rose, mud or any other impediment Mother Nature would put in her way to discourage her from accomplishing her task, and

Whereas, Kate was adept at finding ways to close deals that had small "holes" in funding left at the end of the deal, thereby making preservation possible in Kingwood Township that would otherwise have been at risk of failure, leaving the lands subject to development in the future.

Therefore let it be resolved, on the occasion of Kate's retirement from the Hunterdon Land Trust, on behalf of the residents of Kingwood Township, the Kingwood Township Committee hereby expresses our profound gratitude to Kate Buttolph for her grit, determination and professionalism in helping us to preserve the natural beauty of Kingwood Township for generations to come, and we wish her every success and happiness in her future endeavors.

Richard Dodds noted that a woman by the name of Jackie Middleton will be replacing Kate Buttolph at the Hunterdon Land Trust.

Everyone thanked Sandra McNicol, Richard Dodds, Elaine Niemann and Liz Schmid for the great job they did writing the resolution. It was expressed that Kate Buttolph will be missed.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

Richard Dodds discussed an incident regarding a car being left over night at the park. It was discussed how the township would like to put signs up stating "NO OVERNIGHT PARKING".

Sandra McNicol suggested closing the park the same system as the State parks. She noted that it would be easier to put signs up closing and opening at certain times in place of dawn and dusk.

9.

Richard Dodds explained that there was a dog show event at the Morton Building at the park last weekend and there will be another dog show this weekend. He noted that this is working out very well for them to use the inside of the Morton Building at the park.

Richard Dodds explained that there was a subcommittee meeting with several members from different committees who volunteered to meet to talk about the butterflies and how to manage the field habitat at the park.

He noted that the North Jersey Butterfly Organization gave them a guide to learn by, and that the project is to plant beautiful flowers that the butterflies will flourish around, which will become a very nice butterfly garden.

Ukarish Property - Update

Richard Dodds noted that the barn that was falling down is now completely down and taken away. He noted that the hunting went very well this year on the property. He stated that not many deer were taken out of that property this year, but that it will be advertised to be part of the hunting program for next year.

Sandra McNicol expressed that she received a few calls regarding the HotDog man and how he is going to the state for approval to use state property for parking for his tubing business. She wanted to let everyone know about this, and hopes that this does not happen to our state land.

Richard Dodds noted that he saw a yellow headed black bird in Kingwood Township. Sandra McNicol noted that this is a very rare bird for Hunterdon County and the State of New Jersey. She noted that three were seen in one day in Kingwood Township. Richard Dodds showed everyone over the projector a picture of the beautiful yellow headed black bird.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

No public comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary

