

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2015
7:00PM

Call to Order

A Regular meeting of Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees was called to order at 7:05P.M. Vice Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee John Mathieu 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

John Mathieu
Phil Lubitz
Diana Haywood
Karen Hertzog
Heather Haberle

Absent

Sandra McNicol
Lee Frank

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Present

Richard Dodds
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Susan Goeckeler

Absent

Edward Kralovich

Motion and Approval of the May 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agricultural Advisory Committees

3.

Correspondence

Grower Must Restore Preserved Farmland

John Mathieu reviewed the article.

D&R Greenway - Capital City Farm

John Mathieu reviewed the article and gave a brief explanation.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid (Report for November 2015)

Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee November, 2015

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 significantly since last month. Changes from October are in bold face type.

- 1. Perrotti - Block 7 Lot 14.10 - 52 acres on Oak Grove Road, adjacent on the south side to the preserved DeSapio farm. I have attempted to contact the owner, but he has not returned my call. I will continue to try to contact him.**
- 2. Felix II - (Block 12 Lot 1) - A township resident has contacted me about the possibility of purchasing and preserving this farm. The purchase is dependent on the ability to preserve. In speaking with the interested purchaser, it became clear that possible preservation funding may not be sufficient to purchase the farm. We discussed the need to for them to discuss specifics with the owner. I spoke with SADC and HLT to see if they had any creative ideas as to how this could be worked out. No one has come up with any new ideas. I will continue to stay in touch.**
- 3. Perrotti - (Block 23 Lot 11) - The family approached SADC for the State Direct Easement Purchase Program and the State is processing this application. The family has accepted the certified value offered by the State (despite issues with the solar company). The State has awarded title and survey contracts and expects to be able to close early next year.** HLT had to resubmit the application for Federal funds due to a change in the application forms. The Township Committee has passed a resolution in support of the preservation of this farm.

4.

Unfortunately, the PennEast pipeline runs through this farm.

4. **Dalrymple** - Block 6 lots 26 (33.4 acres) and 26.01 (18.55 acres) - The landowners have completed an application for the Municipal PIG program as well as for Federal funding in conjunction with HLT. **HLT has submitted the application for Federal funding.** I have submitted the Municipal PIG application to the County as that is the next step in the process.

The Township Committee has passed a resolution requesting that the State add this farm to our targeted farm list.

5. **Tranquility Farms LP** - For financial reasons, this farm is not eligible for Federal funds so County and Municipal PIGs were not feasible. The owners have met with SADC staff and staff has toured the property. The State has sent the owners an option agreement package. **The State is waiting for a few more items from the owner before awarding the appraisal contracts. The State is questioning why we cannot contribute toward this project. We have again advised them of our position.**

6. **DeSapio** properties on Ridge Road - Direct Easement Purchase applications were made for two areas along Ridge Rd. The first area is Bl 6, Lots 12 and 13.01 (@ 70 acres total) known as the family farm. The second area is Block 5, Lot 6 (69.54 acres and known as the Brown farm) that extends into Frenchtown for maybe 20 acres more. **The property owner did not accept the value offered on the Brown farm. He wanted to amend the application by removing the Frenchtown portion to see if the value becomes acceptable. The State felt that was a rejection of the State offer and will require a new application which cannot be made for two years. She suggested that we might call him to try a municipal or County PIG with Federal funding. That will not solve the problem if the appraisals come in low again. A lot line adjustment needs to be completed on the family farm (Bl 6, Lots 12 and 13.01) The State is working on the title for the farm and is waiting for the owner to complete the lot line adjustment before awarding the contract for a survey.**

5.

7. **Mattison - (Block 21, Lots 1.01, 1.02, 1.03 and Block 21.01, lot 2) on Rt. 12 and Whiskey Lane - Owner has again been in touch with HLT wanting to sell this property into preservation.**

I will contact NJCF to see if they have any interest. Does the Township have any interest?

8. **Kocsis Property** (Grossman) -Block 6, Lots 18 and 23.01 on Rt. 12 totaling about 150 acres. The new owners of this farm have applied to the State for the Direct Easement Purchase Program. The survey has been completed and the package is being reviewed for closing. The family does not want to close until January, 2016.

Richard Dodds reviewed several of the properties over the projector. The Committees thanked Liz for her monthly report.

New Business

Review - Community Day, September 19, 2015

There were no comments regarding Community Day.

Conference Call-In to Participate in Meetings

There was a brief discussion regarding considering conference calls during meetings to participate when not available to attend the meeting. Heather Haberle explained that she travels a lot for her job and would really appreciate if the township would consider this idea of her being able to participate when out of state. It was decided that this will be recommended to the Township Committee to discuss this at their next meeting.

Updates List: Kingwood Township Preserved Farms 2015

The Committees reviewed the updated list of preserved farms in Kingwood for 2015. They requested adding the date of preservation to the list and how many acres have been preserved on each property.

Old Business

Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

Richard Dodds noted that all the information for the approval for the Church property have been sent to the State. He gave a brief update on the purchase of the property. He stated that he is optimistic that the purchase will happen before the end of the year.

PennEast Pipeline - Update

William Pandey noted that representatives from the PennEast Pipeline have been trespassing on his property. He noted that there are several flags on his property from where they were surveying the property without permission.

6.

Richard Dodds gave a brief update of an incident, which happened on Featherbed Road regarding the PennEast Pipeline trespassing on private property. He suggested that everyone read their resource reports.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Liz Schmid noted that there were complaints of hunters trespassing on preserved land owned by the Hunterdon Land Trust along on Muddy Run Road.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by William Pandy and carried to adjourn the meeting at **7:50P.M.** All voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary**

