

OPEN SPACE AND AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2018

7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandra McNicol at 7: 05 P.M.
Sandra McNicol read aloud the following:

Notice Requirements

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of the notice in the Hunterdon Democrat and Courier News on January 25, 2018 and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Express Times on January 10, 2018. A Copy of this notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 10, 2018.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this Committee, 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 further, 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

Maureen Synchronick
Sandra McNicol
Karen Hertzog
Phil Lubitz

Absent

Heather Haberle
John Mathieu

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Present

Richard Dodds
William Pandy
Cynthia Niececki
Kimberly Kocsis

Absent

Edward Kralovich

Public Comment – Privilege of the Floor

Frederica Keep, middle school student, requested permission from the Committee to plant American Hazelnut and viburnum shrubs and wildflowers at Horseshoe Bend East near the White House. The purpose of planting the shrubs would be to study certain moth species as an indicator of ecological strength of the area. This study would be a school project.

Motion and Approval of Frederica Keep’s School Project at Horseshoe Bend Park Involving Planting of Shrubs to Attract and Study Moth Species.

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Karen Hertzog and carried to approve the The planting of shrubs and wildflowers at Horseshoe Bend Park East by middle school student, Frederica Keep in order to attract and study various types of moths.

All members voted Aye on Roll Call.

Tom and Mary Bonus residents of Byram, approached the committee with questions regarding possible FEMA buyout of their two properties. In particular Mr. Bonus asked if he were to accept FEMA money would the the property be turned over to Kingwood Township as Open Space for public use and if so, how invasive would the public access be for the current Byram community.

Richard Dodds stated that as open space the property would be open to the public with the same restrictions as other open space land. Due to the small size of each parcel, 50ft wide total 100 feet, Mr. Dodds felt there would be no likelihood of using that space for a public park for recreation. There would not be sufficient area for parking, benches or any other infrastructure required for a park.

Mr. Bonus stated that his main concern is for the people who “Tube” down the river. This group is already a nuisance to the Byram residents by resting on the docks and trespassing on residents’ property.

Phil Lubitz asked Mr. Bonus to email a complete list of all his concerns if the property is made public and the Township will submit this to our attorneys to determine what legal obligations and restrictions the Township would be held to.

Maureen Synnick stated that she believes the intent of the FEMA buyout is to protect the homeowners due to frequent flooding of the area not to create public use lands.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of the April 3, 2018 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to approve the April 3, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees.

Abstain - None
Absent - Kralovich

Recommendation to the Township Committee for approval to get appraisals for the Milford Property
Block 15 Lot 1

Motion and Approval by the Agriculture Committee to Recommend to the Township Committee to Obtain Appraisals for the Milford Property Block 15, Lot 1.

It was moved by William Pandy, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the recommendation to the Township Committee to obtain appraisals for the Milford Property.

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

Recommendation to the Township Committee to pass a resolution to support the Farmland Preservation of the Goekeler property Block 30, Lot 6

Motion and Approval by the Agriculture Committee to Recommend that the Township Committee Pass a Resolution to Support Farmland Preservation of the Goeckeler Property Block 30, Lot 6..

It was moved by William Pandy, seconded by Kimberly Kocsis and carried to approve the recommendation to the Township Committee to obtain surveys of the Goeckeler Property.

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

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Meeting Update

Richard Dodds updated the Committee on the most recent Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Meeting. This group was formed in 2000 due to an act of Congress in 1968 to preserve the natural free flowing rivers. The recent meeting goal was to develop a 10 to 15 minute power point presentation about the group's mission to be brought to local municipalities.

Another activity this group is involved in is a compilation of all the arsenic studies done on the Delaware River over the past years. The goal is to develop a baseline study on arsenic in the river to measure against if the PennEast pipeline does come through.

This group is federally funded by National Park Service and is a voluntary program.

Old Business

Farmland Preservation Brochure

Sandra McNicol requested this topic by Carried to the June Agenda

Penn East Pipeline – Update

SADC Lambert Little Preserved Farm re: PennEast Letter

Cynthia Niciecki stated that all landowners of farmland preserved property spotted for the pipeline received a copy of this letter. It states that owners cannot negotiate with PennEast at this time. It also outlines how any money that would be received from PennEast would be divided between the state and the landowner.

Public Comments

Phil Lubitz stated that some people have been concerned about signs posted at the Stockton Inn Parking lot about a development being built. There are currently no approvals for this development and none are expected in the future since it violates many of the zoning laws.

The properties are currently being sold as individual lots.

The Canal Commission has written a letter supporting Stockton becoming a historic district.

Sandra McNicol reported on the NJ Invasive Species conference.

One presenter worth noting was Jay Kelley who teaches at Raritan Valley Community College. Mr. Kelley presented a study of past and present invasive plant cover in Central New Jersey forests. This was 20 years of research compiled into one study.

Richar Dodds thanked all the volunteers who came to the Tree Giveaway at Horseshoe Bend Park on April 21st. Every tree was given away. He also thanked those who helped the AmeriCorp Tree Planting at Kingwood Park that same day. In particular offered great thanks an appreciation to Fairfax Hutter, AmeriCorp Ambassador who coordinated the entire event.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz and seconded by Richard Dodds to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M. **All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Michele Tipton-Walters
Secretary**