

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:44P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirements

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this committee or Board, 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. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Notification of the time, date and place of this meeting has been published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times and sent to the Star Ledger and Courier News, as 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.

ROLL CALL

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - John Mathieu (arrived at 7:56 PM)
James Burke
Sandra McNicol
Richard Dodds
Absent - Phil Lubitz

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present: William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent: Elaine Niemann

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There was a brief discussion on the County Open Space Farmland and Historic Preservation Policy.

Copy of Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/January 21, 2009

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that Liz Schmid attended for Kingwood Township.

John Mathieu arrived at 7:56 P.M.

Liz Schmid arrived at 7:56 P.M.

13th Annual New Jersey - Land Conservation Rally March 7, 2009.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Memorandum from Kevin Richardson, Open Space Program Coordinator re: CY 2009 Municipal Allocation of Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Funds

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed what Kingwood Township's contribution was for 2008. The municipal contribution for Kingwood Township was \$214,246.22 and 15% allocation was \$32,136.93 with a percentage change of 5.1%.

Letter from the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance re: Clark Property, Block 33, Lot 14

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed. She noted there is 55 acres to be preserved out of the 72 existing acres. The initial contract price for the property is \$900,000, with the Townships portion being \$270,000. It was then renegotiated to \$810,000, and the Townships contribution reduced to \$243,000.

Richard Dodds reviewed a GIS map of the property. There was a lengthy discussion of the property. The Committee members suggested that secretary Keller write a letter to the Board of Adjustment and the Township Committee recommending that the fees of \$2,900 for the variance and escrow for the Clark Property not be waved as requested by the Hunterdon Land Trust.

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REPORTS

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

Liz explained the County PIG Program. The following properties were discussed: Wydner property, Crouse property, Augustine property, and she also discussed how the Gross family seems to be very interested in preserving their farm in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

Stormwater Runoff on farm fields

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol will get in touch with the Township Engineer Tom Decker and ask him to contact William Pandy to discuss the problem of the runoff.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activities Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that there is not a lot new activity and that we are still waiting for the Clark property, which is on hold.

NEW BUSINESS

Community hike on preserved open space in Kingwood Township (planning, date, and location)

The Committee members discussed several possibilities for the best property to have a community hike. They suggested the Harms property and Tom Flags property, which are both very nice pieces of property that have nice features for a hike. There was a suggestion to do a community hike once in the spring and once in the fall. The Committee planned a tentative date of Saturday, May 2 and Saturday, May 16 as a possible rain date. The time would be from 9:00 A.M. till 12:00 P.M.

The Committee suggested this be posted on the web site and to send a word of mouth to the Parks and Recreation and Environmental Commissions.

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Suggestions for New Members

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol asked everyone to keep looking for new members.

Preservation Signs

There was a lengthy discussion on signs for preserved properties around the Township. Liz Schmid explained that Townships could apply for signs that would be no cost to them. The Committee shared their experiences of admiring similar signs in several other municipalities. Liz noted that the preservation signs have been applied for Kingwood.

The Committee expressed that they would like to see a preserved sign on the Ukarish property.

There was a lengthy discussion of the property the Township owns on the Melnyk lot, and a piece of property owned by the Kingwood School, and that they are working on swapping the two lots.

Richard Dodds and Sandra McNicol explained that the Planning Board after many months came up with a way to mark conservation easements on new subdivisions. The signs are a size of a 4x4 on a post. The Engineer is working on the best locations for the signs.

Richard Dodds noted that there was a meeting of the Delaware River Stewardship Initiative Program on January 15, 2009. He noted there was a good turn out of participants and very good representation from other towns. They are trying to develop a five year plan.

Sandra McNicol noted that the new ERI, which was prepared by Deborah Kratzer is now on the web site for everyone. She also noted that Todd Kratzer has been working on the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek Watersheds Restoration and Protection Plan, and gave out the web site to anyone who would like to review the plan.

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

All voted Aye on Roll Call Vote

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Keller, RMC
Secretary