

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2010
7:00PM

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:07P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on January 14th, 2010, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 8, 2010. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 8, 2010.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of the Committees and members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair, so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over-talk. Please 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	John Mathieu
Phil Lubitz	
James Burke (7:33pm)	
Lee Frank	
Karen Hertzog	
Richard Dodds	

Agriculture Advisory Committee

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Elaine Niemann	Pete D'Costa
Cynthia Niciecki	
William Pandy	
Ed Kralovich	

2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and approval of the November 4, 2010 Open Space
Advisory Committee/Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes

It was moved by Lee Frank, seconded by William Pandy and carried to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2010 Open Space Advisory Committee/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-S. McNicol, P. Lubitz, L. Frank, K. Hertzog, E. Niemann, C. Niciecki, W. Pandy, E. Kralovich
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-R. Dodds
	Absent	-J. Mathieu, J. Burke, P. D'Costa

Correspondence

Memorandum - Hunterdon County Planning Board Breakfast
Talk-Solar Farms, December 2, 2010 at 7:30A.M. - 9:00A.M.
at the Main Assembly Room, Building#1 on Route 12

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol asked if anyone attended the breakfast. Liz Schmid and Elaine Niemann stated that they attended the breakfast and gave a brief overview. Elaine Niemann noted that there were four panelists, and that she was one of them. She stated that she gave an update of the happenings in Kingwood Township. Liz Schmid stated that there were over 150 people who attended. Elaine Niemann stated that she thought there was good mix of different people who attended. She noted that there were farmers, municipal officials, and Hunterdon County land owners. There was a very lengthy discussion on the rules, regulations and the financial aspects for solar panels.

FYI - Copy of Letter and Resolution to Kate Buttolph re:
MOA - Martin, Mergott, and Trap Rock Properties

Chairman Sandra McNicol noted that this will be discussed later in the meeting.

3.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid(Report for December 2, 2010)

Liz Schmid was present at the meeting and reviewed her monthly report:

December 2, 2010

1. There was no CADB meeting in November, so there has been no progress on the latest round of farms for preservation.
2. HLTA has put the Matysek and Trstensky farms on their SADC wish list. They are not optimistic about Matysek.
3. The Gordeuk Estate property on Route 519 and Barbertown-Point Breeze Road (Bl 23 Lot 17) is expressing interest in farmland preservation. As this year's farms were submitted in October, they would have to wait until next year to apply through the PIG program. As HLTA just got permission to move SADC money to another farm. I referred them to HLTA for possible faster consideration. Curtis Schick is representing the family and will take it to them. HLTA is checking the soils; etc to make sure the property would qualify.

Liz Schmidt noted that the County is threatening to lay people off. She noted that there are individuals that may be laid off from the County Planning Department and feels they are a big part in assisting Townships with farmland preservation. She would like the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees to recommend to the Township Committee to do a Resolution or letter to the County Freeholders encouraging them to reconsider their decision regarding laying off individuals from the County Planning Department. She stated that if a resolution is done, then it could be circulated to all the municipalities in the County and ask them to also support the resolution and send it on to the Freeholders.

4.

Elaine Niemann explained the process of why they are laying off the County workers, and that it will be the Planning Department that is being hit the hardest during the layoff. There was a lengthy discussion on what should be said in the resolution. Liz Schmid offered to work on the resolution. A letter will be sent from the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees recommending that the Township Committee consider adopting this resolution at their next meeting.

It was moved Richard Dodds, seconded by William Pandy to recommend to the Township Committee to send a letter or resolution to the County in regard to the staffing of the County Planning Board and the CWA.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-S. McNicol, P. Lubitz, L. Frank, K. Hertzog, J. Burke R. Dodds, E. Niemann, C. Niciecki, W. Pandy, E. Kralovich
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-None
	Absent	-J. Mathieu, P. D'Costa

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/November 17, 2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Old Business

Memorandum - Re: Revised Policy#2008-02 Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation Policy Adopted October 5, 2010 (Carried over from last month)

Chairwoman S. McNicol explained that it is basically the County's resolution stating that the Hunterdon County Freeholders approve the revisions to the policy for Open Space Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation. She explained that the Mayors and Clerks of all municipalities in the County have received a copy of the open space trust fund manual. It addresses the municipal grant program and non profit grant program. This memo recommends that the Township bank their open space funds, which must be done before the end of the year.

5.

James Burke noted that the Township must include a statement indicating the future intent and purpose for the County open space trust funds and an anticipated timeframe for utilizing the programs funds. He stated that the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees need to recommend to the Township Committee that the Township bank our open space funds and that this must be done before the end of the year. Liz Schmid suggested that we will use it towards the Makatora Farm, Block 71, Lot 6. A letter will be sent to the Township Committee recommending this suggestion.

Discussion - Trstensky Property Blk 24, Lots 13 & 13.10
(Review last month's paperwork)

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she spoke to Kate Buttolph from the Hunterdon Land Trust and she explained that they cannot go any further until they receive the funds that would be available from Green Acres. She asked everyone if they would like to continue discussing the Trstensky property, or if it would be best to wait till the funds are available. The Committees all agreed to wait until the funds come in from Green Acres.

Kugler Woods MOA - Trails Grant with HLTA

Richard Dodds explained that the Kugler Woods Memorandum of Agreement was signed and sent to the Hunterdon Land Trust with regard to the Martin and Mergot property with develop easements. He stated that the Trap Rock property is owned by the State. The Memorandum of Agreement is basically an agreement allowing the Hunterdon County Land Trust and the Township to do any trails and activities on the property. He stated that the Memorandum of Agreement is currently being reviewed by the State Department of Agriculture. He explained the process of the trails grant funds. Richard reviewed pictures of the property with everyone. He described where the land is located and stated that this is where the Open Space Committee went on one of their hikes. He explained what the property has and stated it is a very large piece of property near the lockatong wildlife management area, which has beautiful views of the river. He explained that this does not have any trails on it at the time, and the focus is to try to get funds for trails.

6.

The MOA needs to be in place, the short trail needs to be completed, and the money needs to be available. They are looking for long term projects for interested Eagle Scouts. Richard Dodds explained how beautiful the trail is on that property. He also stated that there are areas of the property that are open for hunting.

Preservation Signs

Sandra McNicol stated that she has not heard anything yet from the sign company, and is still waiting for the sign to be delivered. Phil Lubitz asked the price of the sign. Sandra McNicol responded that it was \$101.00. Jim Burke noted that the Gergar sign that he ordered should be ready any day.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the Hunterdon County Conservation Foundation took several people on a walk of the Polopoly property on Horseshoe Bend Road. Jack MacConnell met with them that day to speak to him regarding the ATV's. She explained that Kate Buttolph spoke to a Mr. Tim Morrison from the Hunterdon County Conservation Foundation about having stewardship on that property. The Hunterdon Land Trust is also looking for a funding source for gates and signage. Sandra McNicol noted that Jack MacConnell will be acting as Steward for the property on Horseshoe Bend Road.

Solar Energy Ordinance - Final Copy 11/09/2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that the Township's Planning Board has worked on the solar energy ordinance last month, and the Township Committee will be voting on this ordinance for final adoption on December 7th, 2010.

New Business

Discussion - County Open Space Manual Regarding Preservation

Sandra McNicol announced that she has the manual if anyone would like to read it, and that the Township Clerk also has a copy.

7.

She stated that the manual is very large and that if anyone would like a copy of a section, to contact Mary MacConnell and the Clerk's office and they will make copies. Sandra McNicol stated that she hopes they put this on line soon.

Discussion - Meeting Day and Time for Reorganization for 2011

Elaine Niemann explained that the Township Committee would like to move the Township Committee Meetings to the first Thursday of each month.

It was decided that the reorganization meeting and regular meeting for the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees will be scheduled for Tuesday January 4, 2011 at 7:00PM. The yearly meetings will be scheduled at the reorganization meeting that evening.

Gergar Farm - Auction Friday, December 10, 2010

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that the auction is scheduled for Friday December 10th, 2010. She noted that the auction is not going to take place at the property, but in Union Township Municipal building 2-4pm. Sandra McNicol described the home and the property. Elaine Niemann noted that she has let people know that if they were unable to go to the open house, they would be able to be taken to the house by a township official to see the home and property before the auction.

ERI - Available Online for Review

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that the ERI is available online on the Township's website.

Phil Lubitz commented on Federal Programs called NRCS, this is where land owners can get information. He suggested it would be a good idea to put this subject on agenda for next month and discuss some of the programs and let more people aware. Sandra McNicol suggested they invite representatives to a meeting and speak to the land owners to see what options they would have. The Committees discussed that a presentation could be scheduled possibly in February.

8.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Cindy Niciecki noted that there is a neighbor nearby her who is a landscaper who is bringing leaves from Prosaic County and dumping them on his property. She also explained that there is an odor from the leave mounds. She also noted that they are running a machine loader with a strong odor from the machine. She wanted to know if there is an ordinance of any kind that prohibits this type of work for businesses. She would like to talk to the neighbor, but not until she finds out if there is anything in the Township ordinances first. Phil Lubitz recommended to her to ask the Planning Board Attorney. Cindy Niciecki thanked everyone, and will go the Planning Board for additional advice.

Other Matters

Adjournment

It was moved by Jim Burke seconded by Phil Lubitz, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller, Secretary