

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2011
7:00PM

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:12P.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 13th, 2011, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 5, 2011. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 5, 2011.

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

Phil Lubitz
James Burke
Sandra McNicol
Richard Dodds
John Mathieu
Karen Hertzog

Absent

Lee Frank

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Elaine Niemann
Cynthia Niciecki
Edward Kralovich

Absent

Pete D'Costa
William Pandy

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of April 5, 2011 Regular Meeting
Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Lubitz, Burke, McNicol, Dodds, Hertzog, Niemann, Niciecki, Kralovich
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Mathieu
	Absent	- Frank, Pandy, D'Costa

Correspondence

Phil Lubitz read aloud a letter addressed to him from the Department of Environmental Protection and Governor Christie, informing the Township that the D.E.P. and Garden State Preservation Trust have approved Kingwood Township's application for a Green Acres matching grant of \$450,000. He commended and thanked Jim Burke for all his hard work and time he has put in over the years towards preserving property in Kingwood Township.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid
Report for May 3, 2011

Liz read aloud the following report:

Agriculture Advisory Committee Report

May 3, 2011

1. Hunterdon Land Trust has received unofficial approval for the Makatura Farm (Maple Lane) in the Federal Farm and Ranchland Program. That will help with costs. However, the family has also received an offer from a solar company.

They are feeling some financial pressure to get funding of some sort as soon as possible. The County has not yet sent out their option letters. I have spoken to them, and it would be possible for the Township to take this farm from the County and submit it as a municipal application in the present round. That way the Township could push for more rapid execution. I do not know what base amount would be acceptable to the family. I am trying to get that information.

If that amount is within a realistic range, would the Township be willing to do one appraisal on spec. to show the family what range we are looking at? I am also looking into the possibility of having the farm done in the Direct Easement Purchase program, but that has become very competitive.

2. HLT has gotten an appraisal on the Gordeuk property which is in the same ball-park as the Felix figure. It has not yet been certified by the State.
3. If in the future we want to do more farmland preservation without having local funding available, it has been suggested that we could apply to the County for extra funding through the County Open Space Tax, or apply through various entities for Federal Farm and Ranchland money to pay the municipal contribution. I do not know how other preservation partners would look at that as they would then have to pay a larger percentage of the remaining cost, but not as much as they would have to pay without FFRP money.

The Committees and Liz had a discussion on several of the farms that will be a consideration for preservation in the future, and funding for them.

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/April 20, 2011

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Old Business

Ukarish Farm Dedication - April 8, 2011 - Review

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Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the Dedication of April 8, 2011 at the Ukarish Farm. She noted that there was an article in the Hunterdon County Democrat announcing the ceremony. She explained that it was a rainy day and several people attended. Mr. Ukarish and his wife were present at the dedication, and they shared their experiences and life on the farm. Sandra McNicol explained that several people were over by the home on the farm waiting for the dedication and did not know where it was being presented. Phil Lubitz noted that many of the farmers and residents thanked the Township for recognizing this and other special farms by dedication. Phil Lubitz also thanked Sandra McNicol for all her hard work getting everything ready for the ceremony and dedication for the property. Phil Lubitz shared some of the stories told by the Ukarish family. Sandra McNicol explained that several people gathered at the Kingwood Firehouse after the ceremony, and that they discovered paintings of the original firehouse and trucks on the wall of the station. There was a brief discussion of the history of the station. It was noted that the old fire house was located on Route 12.

Kugler Woods MOA

Richard Dodds noted that on Thursday, May 12 he will be taking a walk on the property with the D&R Canal Superintendent and her Supervisor. He noted that the MOI is being reviewed by the AG's office, and that it may be completed by the end of June.

Preservation Sign - Melynk - Follow-up

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she has everything completed and ready to send to the State to prepare and make the sign. She described the sign and the plan of how to have it made. It was suggested that it will be a two sided sign to be put on a post and to be located out by Route 519.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

Liz Schmid gave an update earlier in the meeting.

- Letter from the HLT - April 6th

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol read aloud the announcement that the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance has made recently. She stated that this will no longer have Alliance at the end of its name and that it will be called the Hunterdon Land Trust. The note states that it is also a New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation. She also noted that they have moved their offices to the historic Dvoor Farm and their new mailing address is 111 Mine Street, Flemington NJ 08822. She noted that all of their contact information will remain the same.

- Copy of Letter to Margaret Waldoock, HLT - re: Suggestion for Preserved Property Name for B133, Lot14.10

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that she spoke with Margaret Waldoock regarding the former Clark property to find out if the suggestion the Open Space Committee recommended was okay to use for the preserved name of Idell Preserve. She stated that she spoke to Ms. Waldoock and she stated that the Hunterdon Land Trust Committee met and feel that that name, "Idell Preserve" did not have enough of a place name, and that they would like to call it Barbertown Idell Preserve. Mr. Phil Lubitz noted that he would like to strongly reject that suggestion, and feels that Idell is a historical name in the Township. He stated that Barbertown is a separate identity.

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to strongly oppose the suggestion that the formerly Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance's recommends to name the former preserved Clark property, as "Barbertown Idell", and that he would like the Open Space Committee to write a letter to the Hunterdon Land Trust stating that they oppose their idea and would like to name it "Idell Preserve".

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Lubitz, Burke, McNicol, Dodds, Hertzog, Niemann, Niciecki, Kralovich, Mathieu
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Frank, Pandy, D'Costa

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Jim Burke suggested that the committees add another name to "Idell" Preserve to identify the property. Cynthia Niciecki suggested "Idell Creamery". There was a lengthy discussion on what the name could be if they insist on Barbertown Idell Preserve. Phil Lubitz and Sandra McNicol will be writing the letter to the Hunterdon County Land Trust. Phil Lubitz feels they do not know the history of Idell. Sandra McNicol will contact Mildred Wehr from the Historical Society and ask her write something up for the Hunterdon Land Trust on the history of Idell.

- Trail - Barbertown Idell Preserve

Sandra McNicol noted that one of the members of the Hunterdon Land Trust Joyce Koch, who is currently an active member there and is working on a trail for that property. Sandra McNicol noted that she will act as a coordinator for that preserve.

Wetland Banks Update

Lee Frank was not present to give an update.

Community Day - Follow-up Discussion

No discussion at this meeting on Community Day.

New Business

Spring Hike Discussion - May 21st, at 2:00PM
(Felix Farm) **NOTE TIME CHANGE**

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol brought an invitation for the Committees to review of the hike. She stated that the time has changed to 2:00PM, no long at 3:00PM and hopes to see everyone there.

Kate Buttolph, Hunterdon County Land Trust; June 7th, Meeting

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she spoke to Kate Buttolph from the Hunterdon Land Trust, and she noted that Ms. Buttolph would like to come and talk to the committees to see where we will be going next.

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Sandra McNicol stated that Kate has a few projects waiting for us and would like to discuss them with everyone. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol feels that we will need to talk to her. She asked everyone if they feel that Tuesday, June 7th, would be a good date to have her come speak. The Committees discussed the date and feel that that date would not be a good date for a meeting, due to Election Day. The Committees all agreed to Cancel the June 7, 2011 OS/Ag meeting, and meet at the next meeting on Tuesday, July 5th.

Trash Handling On Open Space Properties - Update

Cynthia Niciecki reviewed that signs are in the process of being made from the State, saying trash in, trash out. She described that bags could be put out for people to put their trash in that they bring. The Committees discussed that it would be best to just put signs up on the properties and no bags, as people may litter and leave the bags lying around.

Open Space and Recreation Plan and Maps

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol had a copy of the draft plan and maps for all the members to review. She reviewed and pointed out several items on the plan, one being figure #4. John Mathieu commented on a few suggestions that should be included in the plan. The Committees agreed to approve the plan then make amendments. Phil Lubitz suggested that this discussion be saved for the Planning Board to discuss and amendments to be done.

It was moved by Jim Burke, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to approve the Open Space and Recreation Plan as presented and to suggest that the Planning Board approve the completed draft plan.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Lubitz, Burke, McNicol, Dodds, Hertzog, Niemann, Niciecki, Kralovich, Mathieu
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- None
	Absent	- Frank, Pandy, D'Costa

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It was moved by John Mathieu, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to recommend that the Planning Board consider an amendment to the Open Space and Recreation Plan that would encourage those who develop along the Lockatong or any other open water be encouraged to grant a public access easement to the Township.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	-	Burke, McNicol, Dodds, Hertzog, Niemann, Niciecki, Kralovich, Mathieu
Nay	-	None
Abstain	-	Lubitz
Absent	-	Frank, Pandy, D'Costa

Sandra McNicol asked all the members to look at a list of all the targeted farmland on a map that she handed. Sandra would like the committee to review and look over the plan and let her know if there are any suggestions for changes or improvements. She explained that maps were copied by the Clerk and she would like it scanned and put on the internet.

Horseshoe Bend Road Deer Run Property - Update

James Burke noted that there is a tentative closing date for the property scheduled for May 27th, 2011. Everyone thanked Mr. Burke for all his efforts in obtaining this property for the Township.

Gergar Update

Elaine Niemann reviewed the Auction for the Gergar property that was on Thursday, April 28th, the winning bidder has bought the home and property of five acres at the price of \$200,000.

There was a discussion on whether the Township would be interested in selling any other of the Township's property. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that this will be on the agenda for the July meeting.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

No comments.

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Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary