

**OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 6, 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 7:10P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

**Notice 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Phil Lubitz	Lee Frank
James Burke	
Sandra McNicol	
Richard Dodds	
John Mathieu	
Karen Hertzog	

Agriculture Advisory Committee

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

Also present at the meeting was Farmland Preservation Coordinator Liz Schmid.

2.

**Presentation**

Kate Buttolph - Hunterdon Land Trust

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that Kate Buttolph was unable to attend this evenings meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by James Burke and carried to approve the July 5, 2011 meeting minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Comments: Cynthia Niciecki noted that she was present at the July 5, 2011 meeting, but was stated as absent for the roll call of the minutes. Secretary Keller explained that Cynthia Niciecki arrived following the approval of the May 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes at the July 5, 2011 meeting. Correction: Please note in the minutes of the July 5, 2011 meeting that Cynthia Niciecki arrived after the approval of the May 3, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes at approximately 7:15pm.

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

**Correspondence**

Copy of Letter from the Hunterdon Land Trust re: Gordeuk Farm, Block 23, Lot 17 and 17.03

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed. There was a brief discussion regarding the update of the Gordeuk Farm Block 23, Lot 17 and 17.03.

3.

### Land trust update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed a letter from the Hunterdon Land Trust regarding the Gordeuk Farm in Kingwood Block 23, Lot 17 and 17.03. She reviewed a map that she supplied of the two lots. The Committees reviewed the condition of the land and the surrounding properties adjacent to these lots. Sandra McNicol noted a breakdown of what the Hunterdon Land Trust is looking for as far as funds.

William Pandy commented and feels that this property is the type of soil that should be preserved to use for farming.

### Idell Preserve - E-Mail

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed an email she sent to Kate Buttolph regarding the discussion the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee discussed at their last meeting and the reasons why they feel "Idell Preserve" would be the best name for the former Clark property along Barbertown Idell Road.

### Hunterdon County Democrat Public Notices

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed a published notice the County had put in the Hunterdon County Democrat regarding an ordinance authorizing the acquisition by the County of Hunterdon of deeds easements for the development rights on agricultural land under the New Jersey farmland preservation act and appropriating \$1,500,000.00 for that purpose.

### Reports

#### Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid Reports for August and September 2011

Liz Schmid reviewed the following report:

#### **Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Report September 6, 2011**

- 1. Maplewood Farm - HLT has Federal Farm and Ranchland Funds for this project.**

The family has agreed to sign an option agreement with the Township if one appraisal comes in at or above \$10,000.00. C.L. Orbaker was awarded a contract to do the appraisal and will be in touch with the family this week.

2. The County is still working on the form of their option Agreement, so has not sent out any agreements on any of the 2011 farms.

Attendees for Farmland Status Meetings/August 17, 2011

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

### Old Business

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the memo she received from Kate Buttolph from the Hunterdon Land Trust regarding the Trstensky Property. Sandra McNicol discussed several of the funding options noted from the Hunterdon Land Trust, which she stated would come from Green Acres, the County and possibly a contribution from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. The Committees reviewed a map Sandra McNicol provided for all the members of the property.

Sandra McNicol noted that the Land Trust is looking for a decision from the Township regarding outstanding funds to be considered contributed by the Township for Block 13.08 and 13.09.

Liz Schmid stated that land should be preserved to save the water supply. There was a discussion on well water testing and the results that could have affected the water after the hurricane and the floods.

There was a discussion on the Cooley Property and their preservation.

The Committees reviewed properties that would be beneficial for the Township's future to preserve.

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to authorize a letter be sent to the Township Committee from the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees requesting that the Township contribute \$58,785 towards the purchase of the preservation of the Trstensky Property.

5.

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried to amend the motion to contribute \$59,000.00.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>-McNicol,Dodds,Burke Hertzog,Niemann,Kralovich</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>-Pandy</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>-Lubitz,Mathieu,Niciecki</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>-Frank,D'Costa</b>

Kugler Woods MOA

Richard Dodds gave a brief update on the property. He reviewed the regulations for hunting and fishing and had a lengthy discussion on hunting the property and also the parking area to be planned. He noted that the Scouts will be able to work on the trails in the near future.

Preservation Sign - Melynk - Follow-up / Schedule Dedication

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed what the signs look like. She stated they are okay, but not what she requested. She suggested scheduling a dedication for the sign and the preserved farm. There was a brief discussion on where the signs would be located. It was discussed and decided that the dedication of the sign and property be scheduled on Wednesday, September 28, at 5:30pm.

Trash Handling On Open Space Properties - Follow-up  
Signs Carry-In Carry-Out - Follow-up

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted where the signs were placed on the preserved properties. She noted that one is at the former Clark Property and the other on the Lockatong property.

Discussion - Possible Kingwood Properties to Be Sold

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol asked if there is anything to discuss. Elaine Niemann noted that there is the possibility that Skylark Island which the Township recently obtained may be a property the Township may want to sell someday. Phil Lubitz noted that when the Township is ready to sell the property there are two parties interested on the Pennsylvania side of the river.

6.

Community Day - Follow-up Discussion

Sandra McNicol noted that she will make a poster to accompany the Environmental Commission which will list the preserved properties in Kingwood Township.

Amendment to the Open Space and Recreation Plan - E-Mail

Sandra McNicol wanted to know how the Committee's felt about the amendment to the Open Space and Recreation plan. There was a brief discussion that they would like this recommended to the Planning Board. Sandra McNicol requested that the secretary of the Open Space/Ag Committees write a letter to the Planning Board recommending them to amend the Open Space and Recreation Plan. This recommendation would be to encourage those who develop along the Lockatong or any other open water be encouraged to grant a public access easement to the Township.

**New Business**

Horseshoe Bend Dedication - Press Release

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Horseshoe Bend Park Steering Committee Meeting - Follow-up

Jim Burke explained that he, Richard Dodds and David Hewitt have met to discuss the ideas for the park. Jim Burke explained what was discussed regarding marking of the trails. He explained that he spoke to several experienced people with ideas on the trails. Ed Kralovich suggested at Community Day for residents to give ideas to improve the Horseshoe Bend Park. Richard Dodds suggested to have people sign up to volunteer to work on trails.

Horseshoe Bend Park Trail Map

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the trail map made up by Richard Dodds.

Kingwood Township - Public Open Space Map (Draft)- August 2011

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the draft map, which was created by Richard Dodds of all the public open space in Kingwood.

7.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Scheduled Hike Date

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol suggested the beginning of October for the hike to be scheduled. There was a brief discussion on a date and time. It was suggested that the hike be on Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 2:00P.M. as a tentative date.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

N/A

Adjournment

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by James Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cynthia L. Keller**  
**Secretary**