

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 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 7:04P.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 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
Richard Dodds
Sandra McNicol
Lee Frank
Karen Hertzog

Absent

John Mathieu
James Burke

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Elaine Niemann
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Edward Kralovich

Absent

Peter D'Costa

2.

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of October 4, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by William Pandy, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried to approve the October 4, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting. **(Agriculture Advisory Committee Members to Vote Only) There were not enough members present for the Open Space Advisory Committee at the October 4, 2011 meeting to have a quorum.**

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-W. Pandy, C. Niciecki, E. Niemann, E. Kravolich
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-None
	Absent	-P. D'Costa

No Minutes to Approve for November - Meeting was Cancelled

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol announced.

Correspondence

State Agriculture Development Committee - Maplewood Farm

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Spreadsheet Detailing Kingwood Twp. Open Space Funds Collected 2010 - 2011 Allocations and Expenditures from Kevin Richardson

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Notice from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Immediate News Release: DEP Launches Capital Projects Website

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed and noted that this is for your information.

3.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid **Reports for November and December 2011**

Liz Schmid was present and reviewed the following reports for November and December for 2011:

Open Space/ Agriculture Committee Report

November 1, 2011

1. We have not received a completed appraisal for Maplewood Farm. We have received Green Light approval from the State on this property to do appraisals.
2. Gross (Bl 5, Lot 4) has signed the option agreement with the County and Helmer(Bl 2, Lot 5)has spoken to them and is expected to sign the option in the near future.
3. The Land Trust is assuming that we are contributing to the Trstensky property but will have no interest in it. Is that correct?
4. HLT has applied for a County contribution for Decker (24/8)and Mulligan,(next to the Clark property),but I have to check if they are in our ADA. They may not be. We would have to apply for a change in the ADA in order to get farmland preservation money.
5. HLT has put in an application for Federal money for the Fadil property on Slacktown Rd. As it is only 39 acres the County may not be willing to contribute.
6. HLT is interested in the Tea Table property. They have some grant money, but do not have contact information. We have given them what we have.
7. Hooley and Lutz on Federal Twist have expressed interest in preservation with the Land Trust. The ADA would have to be amended for them also.

Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Report

December 6, 2011

1. Maplewood Farm - The Township has received one appraisal on this farm. The family will be examining the Township's option agreement.

4.

2. If they sign it, the Township will do a second appraisal on the property and submit it to the SADC for a certified value. HLT has Federal Farm and Ranchland funds for this project.
3. Both Helmer (Bl 2 Lot 5) and Gross (Bl 5 Lot 4.03) have signed County option agreements. No appraisals have been done yet. The County has not yet gotten an option agreement from Zander (Bl 5 Lot3) as they are still trying to figure out very convoluted ownership on the two parcels.
4. HLT is applying for farmland preservation for Decker (Bl 24 Lot 8) and Mulligan (Bl 33 Lot 24) and is on the CADB list. The ADA will have to be amended to include these farms if they are to be preserved through the County program. Do you want me to do the paper work to do this? They would come after Maplewood, Gross, Helmer and Zander. At \$7,000/acre, there would be a total cost of @\$174,200. If HLT asks the Township for the usual 20% participation, we would need \$348,400. If they need more, it could be twice that. We do not really know if State funds will be available for these projects. HLT has applied for Federal funds for them.
5. Trstensky has not signed an extension of her contract with HLT for her lots (Bl 24, Lots 13.08,13.09 and 13.10). They have most, but not quite all of the money for this project.
6. I am working on the annual up-date of our PIG Application for the State.

The Committee's had a lengthy discussion with Liz regarding the properties that have submitted applications for farmland preservation.

Everyone thanked Liz for her reports.

Old Business

Kugler Woods MOA - Copy of Memorandum of Agreement - Update

Richard Dodds noted that the MOA has been signed. He noted that this is open state land for hunting, and that the Scouts will be able to go ahead with any projects planned.

Hunterdon County Land Trust - Township Activity Update

5.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that she will be in touch and clarify with Kate Buttolph from the Hunterdon Land Trust to speak to her regarding the appraisals, and if the Township needs to pay for them. Kate received a letter from resident Mr. Izzo from Union Road, stating that their land is preserved, but would like to preserve the remaining area that they have. There was a discussion on who sold the property to the Township that is currently now the Kingwood Park. William Pandey stated it was the Pakachus family who sold the property to the Township. Richard Dodds reviewed Mr. Izzo's property, and explained that it is approximately about 40 acres.

Discussion to Preserve Additional Properties

Sandra McNicol explained where the Township is at this time. She stated that she had a list of properties for the Committees to review for consideration. She noted that Kate Buttolph would like to come and speak to the Open Space/Ag Committee regarding properties that may be of interest to preserve. Sandra McNicol asked for suggestions and thoughts from the Committees. William Pandey noted that the Township is looking for the best farmland around, and that his family is now considering preserving prime farmland. He discussed a few properties that are located near watershed areas. There was a lengthy discussion on the difference of open space land and farmland preserved properties. Richard Dodds noted a few suggestions on how to look for and review the best areas to preserve. He suggested that a map be created of the properties in the Township and sent to all the members. He stated that way they would be able to study and decide what to consider, and feels this would be the best way to make the best decisions. The Committees decided that this would be a goal that they will work on for the upcoming winter months. Phil Lubitz feels that while reviewing the possible properties to preserve, there should be a few considerations, such as principles, contiguous land, prime soils and stream corridors.

Melynck - Dedication Review

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the Melynck Farm Dedication, which was on Wednesday, October 26th at 5:30pm. She noted that it was very nice and approximately five people attended the Dedication.

Amendment to the Open Space and Recreation Plan - Update

6.

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that this has been discussed with the Planning Board, and that they plan to continue the discussion in January.

Lockatong Preserve - Sign

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that a new sign has been put up along the property, which is the carry in/carry out sign. She expressed that she would like to have the sign put back a bit so it is easier to read.

New Business

Letter from the NJDEP re: Recreational Trails Program Grant Application

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the application and stated that it is nine pages long. She explained that it is a partnership grant with the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Funds and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Green Acres Program. She stated that there is a deadline date of February 15th to submit the application. She stated that as a municipality, we may receive a grant for non-motorized trail projects up to \$25,000.

Sandra McNicol suggested that they form a subcommittee to work on this application. The following people offered to volunteer their time to help on this project application: Elaine Niemann, Richard Dodds and possibly Debbie Kratzer will be contacted to see if she would be interested in helping out. Sandra McNicol stated that she will make a date to meet in January. She suggested they work on the trail that is located from the Kingwood Park to the school walkway.

Budget Request for Open Space Committee - For Year 2012

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Lee Frank and carried to request the budget amount of \$600.00 for the 2012 year for the Open space and Agriculture Advisory Committees.

7.

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

Horseshoe Bend Park Steering Committee Meeting - Follow-up

Richard Dodds explained that the power was turned off to have the meters corrected. He explained that there will be a meeting soon to discuss the several ideas. He noted that it is an ongoing discussion with the State regarding how to manage this property together with the Township. He would like to do a draft plan to give the State of different ideas for the areas of the park and have them review and approve the format and then move ahead with the planning process. Richard Dodds noted that he spoke to a hunter who gave him some ideas and suggestions he knew about other park lands. Richard Dodds would really like to get moving on projects in the spring. He explained a little about the Lehigh Valley Coursing Club that is currently renting fields at the park, and how amazing and interesting it is to watch what the dogs do for training. He explained that he is attending the dog shows to keep things in line. Phil Lubitz noted that they need to only drive on the designated areas. Richard Dodds noted that next year things will be more organized. He explained that there was a "Donald Jones Hike", that occurred a few weeks ago by the New Jersey Conservation members who walked the Horseshoe Bend Park.

Richard Dodds noted that several people came out from the area to volunteer and clean up the trails for the walk after the storms. He explained that this is a work in progress and that the State needs to approve the projects. Richard Dodds reviewed a new colorful map he put together of the Horseshoe Bend Park and the properties surrounding the property. There was a discussion suggesting that Park Rangers police the park in the future, and also the possibility of camping at the Park. The Committee's talked about hunting on the park property and issues that need to be discussed. There was a discussion about cleaning out one of the buildings using clean community funds to pay for a dumpster. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol asked Richard Dodds to keep everyone posted.

8.

Horseshoe Bend Park Trail Maps - Update

There was a brief review of the trails maps, which were made by Richard Dodds. She noted that the maps are available in municipal building, and also on the website.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Hike of October 8, 2011 Review

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the hike of October 8th at Horseshoe Bend Road. She stated that about 45 - 50 people attended, and that several were parents and students from the Kingwood School.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:24P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary