

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular

Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2012

7:00PM

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:15P.M. Co-Chairwoman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki 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 19th, 2012, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 11, 2012. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on January 11, 2012.

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
Diana Haywood
Richard Dodds

Absent

Sandra McNicol
John Mathieu
Lee Frank
Karen Hertzog

There were not enough members present to have quorum for the Open Space Advisory Committee to have a meeting.

The meeting of the Agriculture Advisory Committee continued with Cynthia Niciecki Chairing the meeting.

2.

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Cynthia Niciecki
Elaine Niemann
William Pandy

Absent

Ed Kralovich
Peter D'Costa

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of June 5, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by William Pandy and carried to table the meeting minutes of the June 5, 2012 regular meeting of the open space/agriculture advisory committees until next month at the October Meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	-Niemann, Pandy, Niciecki
Nay	-None
Abstain	-None
Absent	-D'Costa, Kralovich

Motion and Approval of July 10, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by William Pandy and carried to table the meeting minutes of the July 10, 2012 regular meeting of the open space/agriculture advisory committees until next month at the October Meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	-Niemann, Pandy, Niciecki
Nay	-None
Abstain	-None
Absent	-D'Costa, Kralovich

Correspondence

Copy of Letter from Delaware Township re: Thompson Realty Co. Pavilica Road-Plum Brook Acquisition - Block 13, Lot 19

3.

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki reviewed a letter and resolution from Delaware Township. The Committee had no comments.

Copy of Resolution from Township of Hopewell - Opposing A-323/S-2074

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki reviewed the resolution opposing Bill A-323/S-2074. There was a brief discussion on the resolution. Co-Chairwoman Cynthia Niciecki commented on her opinion of the A-323/S-2074 Bill regarding preserved farmland owners and stated that she hopes that Kingwood does not consider opposing this Bill. Liz Schmid commented on residents that live near these farms feel about these events and how they are sometimes affected about them.

The discussion was the Township of Hopewell opposing Bill A323, which was approved by the General Assembly on March 15th 2012, which would permit owners of preserved farmland to hold "special occasion events" such as weddings or other "lifetime milestone events", on their farms, provided that the annual income from those events accounts for less than 50% of the annual gross income of the preserved farmland. The Committee expressed that they are not interested in following this opposition.

Copy of Letter to Commissioner Martin NJDEP - From Mayor Niemann
Re: Bull's Island State Park

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki reviewed the letter. The Committees feel that it was a very good letter.

Copy of Letter from NJCF - Position on Bull's Island Tree
Cutting from Emile DeVito

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki reviewed. She noted that this letter notes his position regarding the plans for Bull's Island. The Committees discussed what they have read about the island, and they all shared their own opinions. Cynthia Niciecki read aloud several paragraphs of the letter.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid (Report for September, 2012)

4.

Liz Schmid reviewed the following Report for September.

**Agriculture Advisory Committee Report
September 4, 2012**

1. Maplewood Farm - The Township has agreed to fund the difference between the certified value and \$10,000/acre.

The family has accepted that figure and signed all of the understandings that the State requires. The farm goes to CADB next Thursday for final acceptance. It is hoped that because the Township is picking up the complete difference, CADB will approve this even though it was done backwards. The farm is on the September agenda of SADC for final approval. After that the County has the family sign a contract for sale of agricultural Easement, then they will get the title work done. We will line up the surveyor to do the survey as soon as the title work is done.

2. The Mulligan Farm (Bl 33Lot 24) was accepted by CADB. Now the landowner is weighing his options.

3. Helmer and Zander have received Green Light approval from the State. Appraisal packets are going out.

4. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) - This will be a fee purchase through Green Acres.

5. Goeckeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - The application is still under review at the State.

6. Gross - A certified value came back from the State which the landowner is questioning. The two appraisals that went in to the State were very divergent and the certified value came in closer to the low number. The State appraiser said that he understood the reasoning of both appraisers, but was most swayed by the more conservative amount. The County has asked if a third appraisal can be submitted if it is paid for by the landowner. There has been no response. In the meantime, since we will have very little money left after the Maplewood Farm preservation, I approached the landowner about applying to be on the waiting list for FRPP money through SADC. The State expects to have some unused funds available during the present grant cycle. That could make this preservation possible.

5.

7. The landowner was very cooperative in getting his application in within 24 hours to meet the application deadline.

Marramore Inc. ((Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres, and Maritan (Bl 33 Lot 25), 104.71 acres, are both owned by a large number of heirs who want to sell the property outright. They are open to considering selling at a discount to get some tax benefits. HLT is working with them and wants to know how much money we have left at the State to help.

After Maplewood there will be about \$125,000, but we have the other farms in the pipeline that I would think should come first. We may get more in our account at the State if the Governor approves further appropriations. Both properties have frontage on the Lockatong. One abuts the former Clark property and the Mulligan farm. The other abuts Melnyk, the School and the former Kent property, which is preserved. I had also referred her to the D&R Greenway, which preserved the Kent property.

8. The Wydner family is still in discussion with the State for their farm on Rt. 29. The family is still mulling the options.

9. Chaitman - (Bl 28 Lots 4 & 5) -- HLT has gotten FRPP money for this property on Fairview Road. They are now looking for other money through either the Township or County PIG. Again, the question of how much money will be available through the State, and whether or not the FRPP money would be enough to cover the entire Township share in the PIG process.

Liz Schmid stated that it would be a good idea for the Township Committee to support farmland applications up to our financial capability, and contribute as funds are available with a resolution at their next meeting. She suggested that the Township Committee write a letter in support of the Chaitman property for preservation.

Liz Schmid reviewed a map and information from the County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan the Church property, and the priority evaluation that was completed on that property. It was suggested that the Township Committee adopt a resolution supporting this project at their next meeting.

6.

Everyone on the Committees thanked Liz for her report for September.

Old Business

Kugler Woods MOA

-Brochure from HLT

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki reviewed the brochure from the Hunterdon Land Trust. She asked Richard Dodds to give an update regarding the Kugler Woods MOA. Richard Dodds noted that the trail is now completed all the way down to the waterfalls. He stated that it is a very nice short walk approximately a quarter of a mile.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki noted no new activity at this time.

Horseshoe Bend Park Steering Committee -MOA with D&R Canal Commission (Richard)-NJ Invasive Species Strike Team Findings

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki asked Richard Dodds to explain the update of the Horseshoe Bend Park. He stated that the township is now in charge of the 452 acres at Horseshoe Bend Park. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee has approved and ordered a thousand signs to be posted around the park during hunting season. He explained the signs and showed everyone what the signs for hunting looked like. He explained the lottery that will be conducted tomorrow, September 5th, at 9:00am for the new hunting seasons. He noted that there are approximately 52 permit applicants who applied for the lottery. The hunters picked in the lottery will pay \$25.00 per permit to hunt for each season. He noted the safety zone maps that will be put up around the park and along some of the homes the safety zones that are extended. There will be a mandatory meeting on September 10th, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Horseshoe Bend Park for all the persons chosen to hunt the Horseshoe Bend Park. He explained a group called the Del Val Dawgs who are currently using the inside of the large building. He stated that they are very pleased with using the facility for their cheerleading practices.

7.

He also explained that on September 15th and 22nd the Lehigh Valley Coursing Club will be using the park fields, and also on the 22nd of September will be a "Trail Riding Day" for horse owners.

William Pandy noted that the speed needs to be controlled for the people using the Horseshoe Bend Park. Richard Dodds noted that the Horseshoe Bend Park signs are ready to be put up at the end of Route 519 and Spring Hill Road. He explained that there will be a sign facing both directions on Route 519.

Farm Programs - NRCS, Farm Service, Hunterdon County Soil Conservation - NO Update

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki noted that there is no update at this time.

New Business

Community Day

-OS/AG Presence with Table-Discussion

-Materials for Display

-Volunteers

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki noted that the Open Space and Ag Committees will be setting up a table next to the Environmental Commission's table at Community Day. Richard Dodds noted that he has maps and information on Kugler Woods and the Horseshoe Bend Park for the table displays. Cynthia Niciecki asked everyone to volunteer their time on Community Day. There was a brief discussion on what they would like to include at the table for their displays and to inform the public.

Open Space Inventory - Kingwood Township (ROSI)

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki explained that this was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Invasive Species Information from the Environmental Commission

Co-Chairwoman of Agriculture Advisory Committee Cynthia Niciecki read aloud information on invasive species.

8.

She noted that this is from the Environmental Commission. She stated that the link for the website for the list of invasive species is: <http://njisst.org/files/DoNotPlantList.pdf>

Trstensky Property - Surrounding Landowners Meeting

Elaine Niemann explained that the Trstensky preservation and the Hunterdon Land Trust is having a meeting at a Kingwood residents home. They will be inviting neighbors asking them to donate \$800 to \$1000 towards preserving the Trstensky property. She noted that this meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 9th, 2012.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

No Comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,
Secretary