

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2013

7:00PM

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol of the Open Space Advisory Committee 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 17th, 2013, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on January 10th, 2013. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building on January 10, 2013.

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
John Mathieu

Absent

Lee Frank
Karen Hertzog

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present

Richard Dodds
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Edward Kralovich

Absent

Pete D'Costa

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

N/A

2.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and Approval of January 8, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by John Mathieu, seconded by Diana Haywood and carried to approve the January 8, 2013 Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Correspondence

E-mail Notice from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation Re: 436 Acres Saved at Year's End
Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

FYI - Flyer of Annual Land Conservation Rally March 9, 2013
Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed and stated that the Annual Land Conservation Rally will be held at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey on March 9, 2013. She stated that if anyone is interested they can learn more about the rally at www.njconservation.org/rally

FYI - List of Meeting Dates for 2013

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated these lists are for the member's information.

Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid (Report for February, 2013)
Liz Schmid reviewed the following report for February 5, 2013.

Agriculture Advisory Committee Report

February 5, 2013

1. Maplewood Farm - The title work has been completed and the completed survey is promised by the end of this week. HLT is working on the documentation for the federal money.

- 3.
2. The Mulligan Farm (Bl 33 Lot 24) - State information did not come back in time, and the owner is looking into subdivision.
3. Helmer and Zander - Appraisals have been sent to SADC for certified value. Helmer still trying to work a deal with the County.
4. Decker - (Bl 24 - Lot 8) - Fee purchase through the State Green Acres program is in progress.
5. Goeckeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - The application is still under review at the State.
6. Gross - No change. This is still in limbo. The landowner is now considering one or two severable exceptions as the certified appraisal did not meet his expectations. This would require going back to CADB and SADC for approval again. The application for leftover FFRP money is in.
7. Marramore Inc. (Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres - According to HLT, this will be a Green Acres direct purchase. There is also a County PIG application in for this.
8. Maritan (Bl 33 Lot 25), 104.71 acres - Sharon Gonen, the lead heir in the estate situation, has submitted an application to Green Acres for direct purchase of this property. It adjoins the Clark property and has Lockatong frontage. They had approached SADC, but the property did not rank high enough to qualify for the farmland fee simple program. There is a County PIG application in for this also.
9. The Wydner - Two appraisals are in and State staff are hopeful to get a certified value at February SADC meeting. They will then present an offer to the family.
10. Clark - (Bl 33 Lot 25) 2 acres - HLT has given the owner a contract for purchase of the lot.
11. Chaitman - nothing new.
12. Hobday, Hooley - (Bl 34, Lot 5 & 5.01) Just under 27 acres. Owners have interest in some sort of preservation, are not sure what. They are not in a rush. Nice wooded property under woodland management with several hundred feet of Lockatong frontage. (As many properties, lost many trees in Sandy). Their neighbor, block 34, lot 11, 9.2 acres might also be interested. His property is wooded but has no Lockatong frontage.

Richard Dodds gave a brief update of the Covalesky and the Church properties. He stated that the Church property is off of Horseshoe Bend Road and the Covalesky is a land lot property, which borders the Niciecki's property, and Copper Creek. He stated these two properties total approximately 160 acres.

4.

He gave a brief history of the properties. He stated that the Land Trust has been very helpful obtaining funds from other sources. He explained that the Covallesky family has not made any decision at this time. He stated that he would like to see the township use their green acres funds. The Committees discussed several other properties that may be a consideration to purchase with green acres funds.

New Business

Township C.F.O. Diane Laudenbach Present - Memo with list of Open Space Funds for the Payments Due for Principal from 2013 - 2027

C.F.O. Diane Laudenbach was unable to attend the meeting. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol noted that this will be postponed until next month.

Old Business

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update
Trstensky Property Block 24 Lots 13.08, 13.09, 13.10

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the following:

- Copy of Ordinance for Trstensky Property - Public Hearing February 7th, 2013 7:00PM Twp. Comm. Mtg.
- E-Mail from Mary MacConnell to Kate Buttolph re: Trstensky

Horseshoe Bend Park - Steering Committee Update

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol read aloud a letter the township received from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal Highway Administration approving a grant application under the 2012 Recreational Trails Program. She stated that the Township received a matching grant award of \$20,981.00. The funding for this project will be used to provide trail improvements at Horseshoe Bend Park. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that the Hunterdon Land Trust has also received a \$2,500 grant from the National Park Service to use towards the Environmental Resource Inventory. She stated that these are two grants that will go towards the Horseshoe Bend Park.

5.

Phil Lubitz asked if there will be markers along the trails, which were planned for the first responders in case of emergencies. Richard Dodds stated that this is definitely planned for all of the trails.

He explained that the Hunterdon Land Trust will be asking the Township Committee to write a letter of support for an application they are applying for towards a grant to install a composting toilet at the Horseshoe Bend Park. Everyone thanked Richard Dodds for all his hard work.

Richard Dodds gave a brief update of the Horseshoe Bend Park. He stated that the Township Committee will be approving an ordinance at their meeting of February 7, 2013 to amend the park fees for open space and recreation areas. He discussed several grants that he is applying for to go towards the Horseshoe Bend Park.

NRCS Update: Horseshoe Bend Park - Craig Chainese

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol stated that the township has submitted an application to the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and also asked for their assistance towards habitat for the Horseshoe Bend Park. She explained that she and Richard Dodds walked around the Horseshoe Bend Park property on October 23, 2012 with Craig Chainese, Soil Conservationist. She stated that after speaking with him, he liked what he saw and would like to come and do a presentation at one of the open space meetings for approximately a half an hour. She stated that a date has been made for March 5th, the next meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committees from 7:00P.M. to 7:30P.M. She stated that she would like to invite the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Environmental Commission to come to the presentation. She stated that Mr. Evan Madlinger, Biologist with Natural Resources Conservation Service, will also be coming to the presentation to talk about their ideas on managing invasive plant species and habitat for threatened and endangered species of plant, birds, mammals and amphibians at Horseshoe Bend Park. They will also offer information for possible assistance from the Partners for Wildlife Program under the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**. Respectfully submitted, Cynthia L. Keller, Sec.

