

**AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 1, 2014**  
**7:00PM**

There were not enough members present to conduct an Open Space Meeting.

A Regular meeting of the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:12P.M. Chairman William Pandy of the Agricultural Advisory Committee called the meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

**Notice Requirements**

Notification of the time, date and place of this meeting has been published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Courier News, and has been posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building at least 48 hours prior to this meeting and has been filed with the Municipal Clerk.

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**

Agriculture Advisory Committee

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Richard Dodds	Cynthia Niciecki
William Pandy	
Edward Kralovich	
Susan Goeckeler 7:35pm	

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion and Approval of March 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Joint Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

Not enough members were present to approve the March 4, 2014 Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting minutes. These minutes will be tabled until next month.

2.

Motion and Approval of April 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes  
Of the Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Ed Kralovich and carried to approve the April 1, 2014 meeting minutes of the Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	- Dodds, Kralovich, Goeckeler
	Nay	- None
	Abstain	- Pandy
	Absent	- Niciecki

The meetings of May 6, 2014 and June 3, 2014 were cancelled due to lack of business.

**Correspondence**

Letter from the New Jersey State Agriculture Development  
Committee re: On-Farm Direct Marketing Agriculture Management  
Practice

Chairman William Pandy reviewed. It was discussed that the State Agriculture Development Committee has adopted an On-Farm Direct Marketing Agricultural Management Practice/Regulatory Standards that commercial farms must meet to be eligible for Right to Farm protection for farm markets and agritourism activities protectable under the Right to Farm Act. The AMP was effective on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you Letter from Bob O'Neil - New Jersey Water Supply  
Authority

Everyone thanked the volunteers who came out to help out planting and cleaning up at the Kingwood Park. Everyone agreed it was a fun great day.

News Release from the NJDEP - Re: Recreational Trail Grants

Richard Dodds explained this a notice stating how much each municipality received for the grant. He stated that Kingwood Township received \$23,978 to work on the trails at the Horseshoe Bend Park.

News Article - Byers: Swap of N.J. Preserved Land is "Raw Deal"  
for Citizen

3.

Agriculture Advisory Committee Chairman William Pandy reviewed.

News Letters from the New Jersey Farm Bureau - "This Week in Farm Bureau" June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Ed Kralovich

Ed Kralovich was present and reviewed newsletters for the month of June from the New Jersey Farm Bureau.

### Reports

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid (Report for May, June, and July 2014)

Liz Schmid was not present at the meeting. The Committee reviewed the following reports for May, June and July provided by Liz Schmid:

Open Space/Agriculture  
Committee  
May and June, 2014

I am going to list the projects that have had some type of change since last month first. I will then list the farms that are still on the radar, but have not moved along since last month.

1. Guy DeSapio has put in Direct Easement Purchase applications for two areas along Ridge Rd. The first area is Bl 6, Lots 12 and 13.01 (@ 70 acres total). The second area is Block 5, Lot 6 (69.54 acres) that extends into Frenchtown for maybe 20 acres more. Block 6, Lots 12 and 13.01 is moving through the process. Block 5, Lot 6 is still up in the air. SADC and the owner are trying to agree on a configuration. SADC will discuss it this week.
2. Aljam 1 and 2 - Aljam 1- (Bl 18, lot 5) 133= acres, Aljam 2 - (Block 22, Lots 1, 2 and 2.08) a total of 49.78 acres.. Across the street from each other on the corner of Fitzer and Barbertown-Point Breeze Rds.. The owner resurfaced in mid-March again expressing interest in preservation despite the 'for sale' signs on the property.

4.

3. The brother and sister who control ownership of the property came out to meet with Stefanie Miller from SADC on Saturday, May 31. The brother who had been e-mailing with both me and Stefanie was somewhat conversant with the program and seemed ready to sign preliminary paperwork so that the farm could be ranked and maybe approved for direct easement purchase. The sister wanted more time to better understand the program. She has promised an answer by Wednesday. They are looking to get as much money as they can out of the property which remains on the market for the time being.
4. Gross -Received final approval from SADC in June and has FFRP funding in place. Mr. Gross has signed the contract with the County, and the survey has been completed. Comments on the new survey have come back from the SADC and some small changes have to be done on the survey. SADC still has a June time frame for closing.
5. Helmer Farm (Bl 2, lot 5) -- Mr. Helmer decided to decrease the size of the exception are from 5 acres to two. This has necessitated re-approval from SADC, which has been accomplished. The title work has turned up two issues that have been addressed by the attorneys. SADC will make the final call on what is to be done as far as the title is concerned. The survey has been ordered.
6. Milford (Block 15, Lot 1) - 39 acres. Old FFRP grants have been cancelled. HLT is working with the Milfords in reapplying. Hopefully this will just be a temporary aggravation and a new grant will be approved soon.
7. Zander Farm ( Bl 5, lot 3) - Mr. Zander has agreed to the County offer, and received final approval from CADB. HLT had submitted an application for FRPP money. Because of the cancellation of the older grants, they now have to reapply for the new round. Hopefully, this will be approved.

5.

Because there is no township or Federal money assured at this time, the SADC has put off granting final approval.

8. Goeckeler (Bl 30, Lot 6) - Green Acres staff visited the property and told the owners that while they are still interested, there is no money for preservation at this time. They will continue to hold the application,
9. 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. CADB rejected this property for the County PIG. Ms Gonen has recently approached HLT again (Jackie this time as Kate is gone) to see if there is anything that can be done. Nothing found yet.
10. Decker - (Bl 24 -Lot 8) - No Change. Fee purchase through the State Green Acres program is in progress, but has been slowed by the death of the owner. Estate issues are being worked on.
11. Marramore Inc. ((Bl 20 Lot 5) 59.38 acres -No Change. According to HLT, is on track to close with Green Acres Direct purchase.
12. Oakes (Block 20, Lot 7) - No Change. This Green Acres Direct application is on track to close sometime this year.
13. No Change. I had spoken to Patti at HLT about the possibility of having a dedicated fund at HLT for Kingwood residents to contribute extra funds for preservation projects in Kingwood. She was thinking about it and was going to then take it to their Board. She has recently returned from maternity leave and I hope to hear from her soon.

6.

Report for July 1, 2014

1). The family that owns Aljam Farm has signed the application with the State for State Direct Easement Purchase. They are a little slow defining the exact non severable exception area.

Hopefully this will move forward and get done before they find a buyer.

2). Richard has been copied on various e-mails from Pam Their, Alex Bacon and Stefanie Miller re: Renewed interest by Mrs. Covalesky in preserving her farm. As the Church property is close is closing, getting this property including seems impossible. The 16' driftway easement, which is its only access is also a major hurdle.

Richard Dodds gave an update on the Church property that the township is in the process of purchasing on Horseshoe Bend Road. He stated, that during some of the tests for the sale, they discovered lead in the ground and the Church is arranging for a clean up to be conducted. Richard Dodds stated this should take approximately about two months before it is completed. He explained that the Church will be paying for the cleanup.

Richard Dodds reviewed several properties in the township that have been preserved on the overhead projector.

New Business

Letter from the SADC - Re: Farmland Preservation Account Balances

Chairman William Pandy reviewed. The letter explained that the current account balance sheets are associated with prior appropriations for Kingwood Township, including SADC FY2009, FY2011 and FY2013 appropriations and expenditures. This letter is requesting that the township provide their SADC Regional Coordinator with a detailed written description of all outstanding projects, including what is causing any delay in the encumbrance of funds. The Ag Committee reviewed the attached municipal planning incentive grant summary.

7.

Community Day - September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Table Display, Volunteers Needed

There was a brief discussion of what the Committees would like to do for a table on Community Day, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Sandra McNicol wanted to inform everyone that she will be putting up a display and would like to have as many of the members of these Committees volunteer some of their time if possible on that day.

Phil Lubitz suggested displaying all the new things that have been done and ideas of what can be done in the township.

Planning Board - Amendment to Open Space Recreation Plan Element of the Master Plan (To Review OSRP - Kingwood Township Website> Open Space Committee> Links and Documents> Master Plan Element - OSRP)

Richard Dodds reviewed what the amendment to the Open Space Recreation Plan Element of the Master Plan is about. He explained that this is to identify a series of open space, parkland and conservation easement and to target open space parcels and identify amendments to the Open Space and Recreation Plan OSRP, adopted on May 12, 2010. The Committee reviewed a list of the parcels.

**Old Business**

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity Update

Sandra McNicol commented that there is nothing new to report. Richard Dodds briefly reviewed an update on the Church property.

Horseshoe Bend Park - Update

Richard Dodds briefly reviewed an update at the Horseshoe Bend Park. He noted that there are several events happening at the park. He explained that he along with other volunteers worked on the bridge in the park. He stated that there is now a grant the township received, and that they will be working on the trails again this summer.

Stream Bank Clean-Up and Native Species Planting April 5<sup>th</sup> - Review of the Day

8.

This was discussed earlier under thank you letter from Bob O'Neil from the - New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign - Free Tree Seedlings Giveaway - April 12<sup>th</sup> - Review of the Day

Sandra McNicol briefly gave a review of the free tree seedling giveaway on April 12<sup>th</sup>. She explained that there were many residents that came by to pick up their trees. She noted that several volunteers planted all the left over trees in the Horseshoe Bend Park.

Richard Dodds noted that while working on one of the trails, volunteers planted several trees along the trail. He explained that they are doing well and will be able to be transplanted to other areas of the park.

**Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor**

No comments from the public.

Sandra McNicol announced an "Invitation to Invasive Species Event" at 22 Horseshoe Bend Road in Frenchtown NJ, which is scheduled on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. She noted that this is from the Frenchtown Environmental Commission. She read aloud the flyer and how to dress for the day.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Ed Kralovich and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller,  
Secretary