

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
August 7, 2008

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:09 P.M. Chairman John Mathieu read the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirements

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of this committee or Board, 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. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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

ROLL CALL

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present: William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Sal DeSapio (arrived at 8:19PM)

Absent: Elaine Niemann

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - John Mathieu
James Burke
Sandra McNicol
Richard Dodds

Absent - Margaret Augustine

Approval of the July 3, 2008 Regular Minutes

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried the Motion to approve the July 3, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes for the Agriculture Advisory Committee/Open Space Advisory committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Open Space Advisory Committee

Aye - Sandra McNicol
John Mathieu
Richard Dodds
Nay - None
Abstain - James Burke
Absent - Margaret Augustine

Following the approval of the minutes from the Open Space Advisory members, Sal DeSapio arrived at 8:19 P.M. the Agriculture Advisory Committee then voted on the regular minutes of July 3, 2008.

It was moved by William Pandy, seconded by Sal DeSapio and carried the Motion to approve the July 3, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes for the Agriculture Advisory Committee/Open Space Advisory committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Aye - Sal DeSapio
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki
Nay - None
Abstain - None
Absent - Elaine Niemann

Correspondence

No Correspondence

Reports

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

Liz Schmid explained that the Township has to wait for provisional approval from the County on the PIG applications. She reported a list of farms that have been interested in preserving in the past that need to be followed up now. She noted that she received a call from Mike Stepanovski, who sounded very interested in preserving his property of 50 acres out of 100. She explained that Mr. Mike Stepanovski is a co-owner of the 100 acres with his brother Peter Stepanovski. Peter is not interested in preserving his half of the property. If Mike could get this subdivided he would like to preserve the 50 acres. Liz also noted that Elizabeth Wydner is interested in preserving, but would have to be creative, because the County will not participate if the land is not 50% tillable. Also the Cooley family would like to preserve a part of their property, but others in the family do not want to participate. This property is located south of Route 29. Mr. Rey has decided not to preserve his property, as he has a buyer who is interested in purchasing his property. The Ramirez/Middleton property is a possibility and in the works.

Old Business

Clark Property - Jim Burke

Jim Burke handed out a letter to all the members present, which he received from Kate Buttolph from the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance regarding the Clark property, Block 33, Lot 14. It explained that the Hunterdon Land Trust anticipates using its Green Acres funding for a portion of the \$900,000 purchase price, and seeks a contribution from Kingwood Township for 30% of the purchase price, or \$270,000. It also explains that they have been approved for a 20% grant from Hunterdon County. They would like Kingwood Township to consider adopting an ordinance authorizing the expenditures of Open Space funds for these projects, and to support the subdivision of the Clark open space from the property, which contains the house and related structures.

New Business

Guest Speakers - Katherine Suttle and Kate Buttolph.

Chairman John Mathieu introduced Kate Buttolph, a land acquisitionist from the Hunterdon Land Trust, who was present to speak to everyone in reference to the Clark, Ramirez and Middleton properties, and the purchase of open space.

Also introduced was Katherine Suttle, who represents the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance to talk about a Stewardship Project they are working on with several communities along the Delaware River from both sides of the river in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Kate Buttolph reviewed the process of the Clark property with the Open Space Advisory Committee members. It was decided to write a letter to the Township Committee advising them that the Open Space Committee is in support of the purchase of the Clark property, and they are asking them to authorize the funding for the purchase of the Clark property, and to support the subdivision of that land for open space.

Katherine Suttle presented a slide show presentation of the Stewardship project the Hunterdon Land Trust is working on. She explained it is to develop a program like a master plan or a management plan that exists within a mile of the Delaware River.

She reviewed the project goals, initiatives, and strategies of the project. Also reviewed the area showing Kingwood Township. There are eight municipalities included. There is a grant from the William Penn Foundation to work with municipalities and park groups, to make more trails for hiking, horseback riding and many other activities. The Hunterdon Land Trust is looking for a representative from Kingwood Township to attend and participate in 2 to 3 meetings to develop a plan. Mr. Richard Dodds offered to be the Township's representative, and explained that he is already very involved with the project. It was noted that when a plan has been developed it can be posted on the Kingwood Township web site. Jim Burke suggested displaying maps of the project at Kingwoods Community Day.

The Committee members thanked Kate and Katherine for both attending the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Comments

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Sandra McNicol and carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary