

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 3, 2008

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:00 P.M. Vice Chairwoman Sandra McNicol 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 - Sal DeSapio
Elaine Niemann, Committeewoman
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent - None

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - Marge Augustine, Mayor
Sandra McNicol
Richard Dodds

Absent - James Burke, Deputy Mayor
John Mathieu, Chairman

New Business

To review the current Open Space and Recreation Element of the Master Plan

Vice Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained that if the Township receives the money from the Smart Growth Grant, then the Township will need to look into this Element of the Master Plan. She noted that there are a lot of elements to the open space/recreation plan and this will take a lot of research with several committees and commissions involved. The Open Space Committee members would like to meet with the Parks and Recreation Committee on this project.

To review the current Farm stand Ordinance

Vice Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained this was brought up at the last Planning Board Meeting. They thought it would be a good idea for the Agriculture Advisory Committee to review the ordinance and see if there are any thoughts to changing the ordinance. Mrs. McNicol explained that the ordinance is part of the Township's zoning ordinance. She stated it is specific to the agriculture and residential zone. There was a very lengthy discussion on the farm stand ordinance and if it needs to be amended. Elaine Niemann suggested that the open space and agriculture members prepare their opinions and give them to the planning board to review. There were comments on the existing ordinance and that the committees should formulate their ideas of changes to be discussed at the next months meeting in May.

Public Comments

Jack MacConnell - Spring Hill Road thanked Mr. James Burke for all his tenacious work towards receiving the funds from the County Freeholders for the Equestrian Village on Horseshoe Bend Road. He also had questions about what will be allowed at the new Equestrian park, to enforce fines, and has hopes that this will be environmental save in all aspects for animals, birds and the public. Mr. MacConnell would like to see everyone write a letter to the NJ State Fish and Game in regard to having all the property that they have be farmed and cut and harvest.

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The members discussed environmental safe fields and grassy areas for the species for the new park. They feel that the Township Committee and the Environmental Commission should write a letter to NJ Dept. Fish and Game in support.

Liz Schmid - Tumble Idell Road shared some information about a new fungus that is slowing beginning to attack multa flora and soy beans.

Sandra McNicol noted that the Governor of NJ is planning on closing a lot of the State Parks. She noted that on Saturday, April 5, a gathering at Round Valley State Park will take place at 12:00 noon for a rally.

Elaine Niemann noted that the Budget Proposal for the State is to eliminate the Department of Agriculture. She also said that as number of Kingwood residents went to Trenton to express their displeasure of this decision. She feels that the members of the Agriculture Advisory Committee should write letters to our Legislatures putting pressure on them. Another idea was to do a resolution from the Township. Mrs. Niemann offered to write a letter for the Agriculture Ad. Comm, then send to Sal DeSapio to review.

It was moved by Mrs. Augustine, seconded by Mr. Dodds and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. **All** present voted **AYE** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Brown
Secretary