

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
March 6, 2008

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:05 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 - Sal DeSapio (arrived at 8:09)
Elaine Niemann, Committeewoman
William Pandy
Cynthia Niciecki

Absent - None

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - John Mathieu, Chairman
James Burke, Deputy Mayor
Marge Augustine, Mayor
Sandra McNicol

Absent - Richard Dodds

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. McNicol, seconded by Mrs. Augustine and carried the Motion to approve the February 7, 2008 Reorganization Meeting Minutes for the Agriculture Advisory Committee and Regular Meeting Minutes for Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes

Roll Call Vote:

Aye -	Pandy, Niemann, DeSapio, Niciecki, Burke, Mathieu, McNicol, Augustine
Nay -	None
Abstain -	None
Absent -	Dodds

CORRESPONDENCE

Sandra McNicol reviewed a grant which she applied for through the Division of Parks and Forestry for the Township for a Forest Service Grant. This is a green communities type of program. She explained that we did get the grant and a final letter dated February 29, 2008 stating that we would be receiving a grant in the amount of \$3000.00. Mr. Burke explained that the Environmental Commission would like to get together with the Parks and Recreation Committee and work out a plan to plant trees in the park. He also explained that there is a candidate who is working on his Eagle Scout Project that is interested in coordinating a project to plant trees and maintain them. Mrs. McNicol stated that the Division of Parks and Forestry will notify the Township on the next step. She did say that we cannot count on receiving the \$3000 this year, that the Township must develop a forestry plan first. She also said that this is done through the retired forest service by a man named, Les Alphauh, who will be doing this for the Township. The grant money will also cover his expenses.

REPORTS

Liz Schmid, Open Space/Farmland Coordinator was not present to report.

Page#3

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

(ANJEC) Smarth Growth Planning Assistant Grants

Chairman to the Open Space Committee John Mathieu reviewed two grants that the Township is currently working with at this time. One of the grants is to apply for \$50,000 Smart Growth to assist in the municipal plan and also a \$20,000 grant for Township's that have Environmental Commissions. This grant is to direct growth into compact, efficient, walkable communities, and to protect rural and environmentally sensitive areas so they can continue to perform their critical ecological functions. It is also an incentive for towns to examine their vision for the future, assess their natural and open space resources, and adjust their land use plans, zoning and ordinances to insure that future development will contribute to the livable communities they envision. Mrs. McNicol explained that a Committee member of the Open Space Advisory Committee and also a member of the Planning Board, Richard Dodds went to Trenton for the meeting for this grant. Angela Clerico from the Township's Planners office is currently working on this grant.

Mrs. McNicol noted speaking with the County about the County's Open Space Plan, and said the Township never submitted it's Open Space Plan in the year 2000, when the County was developing a County wide Open Space Plan. The County suggested Kingwood Township review their Open Space Plan and bring it up to date. Mr. Mathieu feels that the \$20,000 grant should go towards this review.

Chairman John Mathieu reviewed to both Committees the meeting of the County Freeholders meeting, which was this week. He explained that several residents and Committee members about(50)people attended the meeting in hopes to give their opinions and support to the purchase of the Equestrian Village located on Horseshoe Bend Road, in Kingwood Township. Mr. Burke explained the details of the meeting.

Page#4

There was a lengthy discussion on the Freeholders meeting.

Elaine Niemann asked if the Township would be on the Freeholders next meeting, which is scheduled for March 18, 2008. Mr. Burke responded and stated he will make phone calls to find out what he can about the meeting.

There was a brief discussion in reference to the Natural Gas being installed throughout the County.

It was moved by James Burke, seconded by Mrs. McNicol and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:45P.M. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Brown
Secretary