

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:15 P.M. Chairwoman Sandra McNicol Called the meeting to order and 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 Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times and sent to the Star Ledger and Courier News, as 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.

ROLL CALL

Open Space Advisory Committee

Present - John Mathieu  
James Burke  
Sandra McNicol  
Richard Dodds  
Absent - Phil Lubitz

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Present: William Pandy  
Cynthia Niciecki  
Elaine Niemann  
Absent: None

Approval of the November 6, 2008 Regular Minutes

It was moved by John Mathieu, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried the Motion to approve the November 6, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes for the Agriculture Advisory Committee/Open Space Advisory committee.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Open Space Advisory Committee:**

Aye - Mathieu, Dodds, McNicol,  
Burke  
Nay - None  
Abstain - Lubitz  
Absent - None

**Agriculture Advisory Committee:**

Aye - Niciecki, Niemann, Pandy  
Nay - None  
Abstain - None  
Absent - None

Correspondence

Memo from the Hunterdon County Planning Board re: New County of Hunterdon Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Policy

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Letter from the Department Agriculture re: Planning Incentive Grant Program

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed.

Copy of letter sent to the Kingwood Township Planning Board from the Agriculture Advisory Committee Chairman

It was noted that the matter is now closed.

Reports

PIG Progress: Liz Schmid

### Page#3

Liz Schmid reviewed the Farmland Preservation Program for 2009. She noted that the State will contribute \$750,000, the County will contribute \$250,000, and the Township will contribute \$250,000.

Liz explained that Phillip Felix is willing to sign the form to preserve his land. In order to utilize the money from the State and County, the Township must submit his application by January 15, 2009. Liz noted that there are two easements, one with AT&T, and one with the Buckeye Pipeline, which run across his property. The Committee's also discussed that there are a few acres that are a non-severable around the house and farm building. Liz noted that the Crouse property is about to be preserved. She stated that the Davis farm is a small farm about 20 acres. The Agriculture Advisory Committee agreed not to preserve the Davis farm because of the size, and the constraints on the property.

### Old Business

#### Hunterdon Land Trust - Activities Update

Sandra McNicol reported that the Hunterdon Land Trust sent out an e-mail informing the Township that the Middleton/Ramirez property has been preserved. There are about 60 acres of the property in Kingwood, and 20 plus in Alexandria. Sandra noted that the Harms property is completed. She noted that the Clark property will have to go before the Planning Board or the Board of Adjustment.

Richard Dodds reported that there will be a meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, in reference to a Stewardship Program. It will be at the Hunterdon Land Trust office at 6:00 P.M. Katherine Suttle, and Richard Dodds are working on a program titled the Delaware River Stewardship Initiative Program. This is to bring the communities along the Delaware that have preserved land together, and to make them aware of it, and to try to get some trail systems started. They would like to open it to the public also. Richard Dodds explained attending a meeting with the New Jersey Natural Land Trust. He stated that they spoke of many interesting topics.

**Page#4**

The Committees agreed that they need to find new members for both Advisory Committees. There are two needed for the Agriculture Advisory Committee, and three for Open Space Advisory Committee. It was encouraged to all the members to try and find people that may be interested.

There was a discussion on the plans for 2009. Mr. Pandy expressed how important it is to preserve farmland for the quality of life, for food, and fuel. He also spoke about the different types of soil, which are good for several different crops.

It was noted that the County preserved 50% less farmland in 2008, than in 2007.

Sandra McNicol suggested that the Open Space and Agriculture Advisory Committee's sponsor a walk, which will be joint, go out to a piece of property to tour, and show the residents what is involved with their Open Space funds.

Sandra McNicol would like to see the Township obtain signs, which state that a land is preserved. Sandra McNicol and Liz Schmid will be looking into where to purchase the signs.

Jim Burke noted that the Township now officially owns the old Hunterdon Industrial Gas property on Route 29. He also noted that the Skylark Island property is to be preserved. He explained that the closing for the large property on Horseshoe Bend should be closing in March.

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by Cynthia Niciecki and carried the motion to approve the Felix property to be submitted as an application to the PIG program.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>- Elaine Niemann, Cynthia Niciecki, William Pandy</b>
	<b>Nay</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>- None</b>
	<b>Absent</b>	<b>- None</b>

