

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
APRIL 12, 2010**

Members

Present:	Richard Ginman	Vice Chair
	Kat Cannelongo	Committee Member and Historic Preservation Liaison
	Fred Gardner	Alternate I and Planning Board Liaison
	Joan Sank	Alternate II (left at 8:00 p.m.)

Liaisons

Present:	Pat Cregar	Township Committee-Mayors Designee
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Others

Judy Conard	Administrator
Martha Pittore	Secretary

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH** the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is a regular meeting of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the January 21, 2010 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On April 7, 2010 notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk's Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the agenda was posted on the bulletin board.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** Dick Ginman opened the meeting to the public. No members of the public were present. A motion was made by Fred Gardner to close the meeting to the public, second by Kat Cannelongo. Motion carried

**MINUTES OF MEETING held March 8, 2010.** A Motion was made by Dick Ginman to approve the minutes as written, second by Kat Cannelongo. Motion carried with Pat Cregar abstaining.

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL:** Motion made by Fred Gardner to pay bills as listed on the agenda, second by Kat Cannelongo and carried.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

New Business: Sourland Mountain Walk	Dick Ginman
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**ACTIVE PROPERTIES UPDATE/ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:** In addition to the report Ms. Conard reported as follows:

- Rynearson: No further update regarding meeting held on April 9<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Rynearson and Tom DiBianca to discuss contract with Dr. Sousa for DEP driveway application.
- Scibilia: A letter has been sent to Attorney DeSapio's office asking that they work with Lori MacWilliam at Gebhardt & Kiefer in order to make next steps toward closing proceed as quickly and smoothly as possible. Christina Ohler from Attorney DeSapio's office continues to work with Lori MacWilliam.
- Zuegner: Loraine Staples, of Gebhardt & Kiefer wrote to Terri Stahl to inform her that a fax was received from Attorney, Tom DiBianca, stating the terms of the agreement are acceptable. Dick Ginman stated the Township Committee has passed the resolution.
- Wallin cost share and Gutowski Paulson Green Acres acquisition: Judy will follow-up with Mr. Cushing,

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Outreach Letter:** Judy stated the outreach letters have been signed by the Mayor and will be mailed tomorrow. The letter was sent to all owners with property in the ADA and greater than 30 acres, per outreach list dated February 5, 2010.

**OLD BUSINESS:** FOSPC received review comments on March 31, 2010 from SADC to the second revision to Comprehensive Farmland Plan submitted in October 2009. Judy will devote exclusive time to implement the requested changes. Fred Gardner was asked to help with revisions if needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Zuegner Farmland Preservation:** Judy stated she attended a meeting with Mrs. Zuegner and her Attorney, Tom DiBianca on April 9. They are concerned about closing by year end due to expected increase in capital gain tax rate. Judy advised them that before E. Amwell can receive the \$750,000 funding grant needed for this project from the State, the Comprehensive Farmland Plan must be approved. FOSPC agreed to proceed with the survey so that all work is complete and a closing can proceed quickly when funding is in place.

**Sourland Mountain Walk held with Bill Rawylk on April 7, 2010:** Dick Ginman, Fred Gardner, Kat Cannelongo and Judy Conard walked and or visited five properties under consideration for possible preservation under the Green Acres program. East Amwell has grant funding now in place to preserves at least two properties. All properties are wooded and are suitable for preservation due to location and linkage with adjacent preserved parcels.

D & R Greenway will arrange a pre-appraisal meeting with Green Acres to discuss these properties. This is the required first step in the Green Acres process. FOSPC reviewed the map and discussed the properties, and their order of importance. They agreed that all the properties should be included in pre-appraisal meetings and asked Judy to collect whatever information is required.

Fred Gardner expressed concern about the properties between North Hill Road and Montgomery Township. He urged preservation to prevent the purchase of these smaller lots as an assemblage with development as a goal. Road improvement, maintenance and other costs could become a financial burden to the township.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

**Planning Board:** Fred Gardner stated:

- Discussions continue on the tree harvesting ordinance.
- The State has passed a change in laws regarding the farmland assessment rules for woodlands.

**Recreation Committee:** Judy Conard read the report submitted by Angelo Lovisa:

- The Easter Egg Hunt went well using the three ball fields behind the municipal building.
- Members of the Recreation Committee went to the Gulick Road property to measure it to make a preliminary plan for the county to develop fields. Although East Amwell currently has enough fields, it is expected that more fields will be needed in the future. Recreation feels it is in the interest of the township to work with W. Amwell to show continued interest in the project to the County.

**Historic Preservation:**

- Pictorial book has been handed to the publisher for editing and printing. A power point presentation is planned for use at the book signing and other events.
- Clawson House: Funding is at a standstill. The committee will continue its efforts to apply for grant money from the state and not for profit organizations that make grants for historic projects. County money is another option under consideration.

**Ag Advisory:** No report was made.

**Environmental Commission:** No report was made.

### **REPORTS**

**Land Rally:** Judy and Glorianne attended the Land Rally sponsored by the NJ Conservation Foundation at Montclair State College. Judy submitted a written report. It was also noted that a round table with SADC discussed possible ways to combine public access trails with farmland preservation.

All other reports noted with no further comments

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted as listed on the agenda with no further comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CADB meeting was held on April 8, 2010: Judy stated that the agenda listed a hearing to be held to discuss a Site Specific Agricultural Management Practice (SSAMP) request. The applicant is Mr. Fisher regarding his plan to sell water for bottling from a spring on his farm. CADB received notice from neighbors and others who plan to oppose the request. The next CADB meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2010.

The next SADC meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2010 in Trenton.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The Chair opened the meeting to the public. No members of the public were present. A motion was made by Fred Gardner to close to the public with a second by Kat Cannelongo. Motion carried.

The next FOSPC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May10, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at the East Amwell Municipal Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. on a motion made by Fred Gardner, second by Dick Ginman. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Pittore  
Secretary