

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 14, 2011**

Members	Glorianne Robbi	Chair
Present:	Dick Ginman	Vice Chair
	Kat Cannelongo	Committee Member and Historic Preservation Liaison (left at 8:45)
	Fred Gardner	Committee Member and Planning Board Liaison (left at 8:55)
	Pat Cregar	Township Committee-Mayors Designee
Alternates	Bill duFosse'	Alternate 1 and Agriculture Advisory Liaison
	Joan Sank	Alternate 2
Liaisons		
Present	Toni Robbi	Environmental Commission Liaison
Others	Judy Conard	Administrator
Present	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wiedemer	Township residents

**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 27, 2011 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On November 9, 2011 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:** Chair, Robbi opened the meeting to the public. Joe and Christine Wiedemer discussed possible offer of Block 31 Lots 1 and 14.01 (10 acres more or less) for sale as an open space project. They noted its proximity to preserved properties and to the Omick Woods saying the property would offer additional access to that parcel. Mr. and Mrs. Wiedemer discussed their woodland management plan (a copy on file with Assessor Busher) that notes 11 species of birds and other animals some of which are listed as endangered or threatened. The committee said that negotiations and an appraisal are now underway for the Lang parcels that provide access to Omick Woods without need to cross the road. The committee said they would provide updates to Mr. and Mrs. Wiedemer regarding progress on Lang. The committee did notified D&R Greenway regarding possible acquisition of this property. FOSPC will keep communication open with the landowners and D&R Greenway. The Wiedemer's invited members of the committee to walk the property. Members of FOSPC thanked the Wiedemer's for considering the property for open space and for contacting FOSPC.

A motion was made by Kat Cannelongo to close the meeting to the public, second by Dick Ginman. Motion carried.

**MINUTES OF MEETING held October 10, 2011.** A motion was made by Dick Ginman to approve the minutes, second by Pat Cregar. Motion carried. Fred Gardner abstained.

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

A motion made by Dick Ginman to pay bills as listed on the agenda, second by Fred Gardner. Motion carried.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Add under New Business: Plan for an early 2012 information meeting for landowners interested in preservation.

**ACTIVE PROPERTIES UPDATE/ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:** In addition to Administrators report, Judy Conard made the following report:

Scibilia: Letter to Secretary Fisher requesting a meeting with SADC to resolve subordination problem was re-sent on November 9 because no answer was received to letter sent October 11.

Lang: Appraiser will walk the property this week and will send the completed appraisal by month end. Judy will contact the realtor and D&R Greenway to invite them to participate. Judy and Dick Ginman will accompany Appraiser Goldberg for FOSPC.

Holcombe: SADC closed with the landowners on October 25. This was a direct easement purchase by SADC and entire process took one year as promised.

Perkovich: After SADC did a preliminary ranking that determined eligibility for the direct purchase program, a letter was sent to the landowners to invite them to apply to this program.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Targeted Farms List as part of the Municipal PIG Application to SADC. The committee discussed the list and added all the Higgins properties to the list. Block 25/2 owned by Thompson was discussed but that farm is already listed.

A walk on the Higgins property was suggested to determine presence of grassland birds. Joan Sank will contact Sean Grace to ask if he would lead a walk on Higgins for AVTA members and their guests.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Open Space Forum held October 26. The meeting had excellent presentations and participation from Boy Scouts and Grange. It was suggested another Forum be planned for a weekend evening in summer to attract more residents. The possibility of a nature walk as part of the forum was suggested.

Cider Mill Grassland Opening Celebration held November 2. This was an excellent celebration with good weather and a great walk of the property led by Sean Grace of Audubon. Various birds were identified.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Landowner Information Meeting It was suggested that FOSPC host a landowner meeting to discuss preservation in early 2012. This will be on the January agenda for further discussion.  
New Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Letter received from Ms. Messinger offering help on land stewardship. Judy asked to invite Interim Director Messinger to the December FOSPC meeting.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **Historic Preservation:** No report
- **Planning Board:** No report
- **Ag Advisory:** Bill duFosse' stated the Ag Forum was held on October 17, 2011. Emergency preparedness was discussed including use of generators and animal rescue. The presentations were excellent.
- **Environmental Commission:** Snow damage to trees is most extensive in open areas at the edge of woods. Tree damage diminishes as the woods become more dense.
- **Recreation Committee:** Glorianne reported that Christine Rosikiewicz resigned from the Recreation Committee effective December 31, 2011. A new liaison to FOSPC will be appointed.

**REPORTS:**

- Updated NJ Strategic State Plan Judy attended the information meeting hosted by CADB on Nov. 9. She made a report on the highlights of the plan.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- NJ Farm Bureau Newsletter report that NJ residents continue to support farmland and open space preservation was noted to the Township Committee by Glorianne Robbi at their November meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements noted as listed on agenda with no further comments.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Amwell Municipal Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. by motion of Dick Ginman second by Joan Sank and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:  
Judy Conard, Administrator