

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 12, 2011**

Members

Present:	Dick Ginman	Vice Chair
	Kat Cannelongo	Committee Member and Historic Preservation Liaison
	Pat Cregar	Township Committee-Mayors Designee

Alternates	Bill duFosse'	Alternate 1-Ag Advisory Liaison
	Joan Sank	Alternate 2

Liaisons

Present	Christine Rosikiewicz	Recreation Committee Liaison
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Others

Present:	Debra Cohen	Prospective E.Amwell Resident
	Judy Conard	Administrator
	Frances Gavigan	E.Amwell Resident (arrived 7:35 p.m.)
	Alan Hershey	NJ Trails Association (left 8:30 p.m.)
	Randy Pease	D&R Greenway (arrived 7:40 p.m.)
	Martha Pittore	FOSPC 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 27, 2011 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On September 7, 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: A motion was made by Kat Cannelongo to open the meeting to the public, second by Joan Sank. Debra Cohen expressed an interest in the William Chamberlain house. She asked if the house was in a flood plain and asked about the water quality of the Neshanic Creek. FOSPC advised her to contact the Environmental Commission and Clerk Terri Stahl for information regarding access to flood plain maps. Joan Sank stated stream water quality is checked on a regular basis. A motion was made by Pat Cregar to close the meeting to the public, second by Kat Cannelongo. Motion carried.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION: Dick Ginman opened the special discussion regarding the FOSPC project to open acquired public land for public access. Alan Hershey discussed trail development. He stated that development of sustainable, interesting trails starts with a Consultant who develops a good design. A core group of volunteers to build trails is essential. A brief discussion was held on expansion westward of the Northern Stony Brook site. Mr. Hershey stated an evaluation was done previously and site was deemed too wet. A meeting will be held with members of NJ Trails Association, Dick Ginman and Toni Robbi to discuss other future projects.

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Randy Pease from D&R Greenway discussed various projects under consideration by D&R Greenway and FOSPC:

- Lang Property: Randy Pease stated the contract is executed and should be finalized at the next meeting. Randy Pease will follow up with Green Acres, Pam Thiers for pre-appraisal meeting. Judy Conard stated the Township Committee has approved paying for one appraisal to provide an indication of value.
- Eastern Properties: (adjoins Cat Tail Book –formerly owned by Verizon): Randy Pease stated D&R Greenway has no interest in this property at this time.
- Thompson-Carluccio: Judy Conard stated a letter was sent to Mr. & Mrs. Carluccio on September 7 to ask if they are still interested in discussing sale of easements. Conditions were outlined including the need for written agreement between the two owners.

MINUTES OF MEETING held July 11, 2011. A motion was made by Kat Cannelongo to approve the minutes, second by Pat Cregar. Motion carried.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL:

A motion made by Pat Cregar to pay bills as listed on the agenda, second by Kat Cannelongo. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

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

Scibilia: Wells Fargo has denied partial release of security on the home farm to non preserved lot. Bank rules do not allow transfer of a residential mortgage to a commercial property. This partial release was a solution to avoid need for subordination. Wells Fargo will provide a Consent of Lien Holder but to date SADC states this is not an acceptable document. Work will continue with Lori McWilliam and the SADC.

Drift: Hunterdon Land Trust states that action is required from Mr. Drift by September 15.

Plimpton Property: No response from the Freeholders has been received to the letter dated July 22 by the Mayor advising this property is available and would be a great addition to Hunterdon County Sourland Preserve.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Update on projects with D&R Greenway: See remarks under Special Discussion above.

NEW BUSINESS:

Preservation inquiry re: Block 16 lot 16.03. Judy Conard stated Barbara Hay has expressed an interest in selling the easements on this property.

Discuss proposed FOSPC open meeting his fall on Open Space in the Township:

FOSCP Open Space Forum will be held on Wednesday, October 26. The purpose of the meeting is to inform residence of recreational opportunities within the town. FOSPC discussed inviting speakers from NJ Trails Association, D&R Greenway, County Parks Department and the NJ Audubon- Plainsboro Preserve. A sub-committee was formed to work on meeting details. Joan Sank, Kat Cannelongo, Richard Ginman and Judy Conard volunteered to organize the meeting.

Ag Forum: Frances Gavigan stated the Agricultural Forum is scheduled for Monday, October 17. The main topic will be preparedness to power outages and other emergencies. The need for such preparedness training was made evident during the recent power outages.

Recreation Committee meets on October 6: Christine Rosikiewicz stated she has sent an email to current members regarding the Open Space Forum discussion at their October 6 meeting and has received no response. Members of FOSPC will attend this meeting to discuss the Open Space Forum.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **Historic Preservation:** Kat Cannelongo stated a bus tour to view various barns in the Township is planned for the fall. The East Amwell Historic Society will hold a presentation with the Fire Department.
- **Planning Board:** Dick Ginman stated the Planning Board will review the solar farm application on the Everitt farm.
- **Ag Advisory:** Bill duFosse' stated the Ag Forum will be held on October 17, 2011. See details above.
- **Environmental Commission:** No report was made.
- **Recreation Committee:** Christine Rosikiewicz stated movie nights were a success. The Recreation Committee needs additional members and hopes that the Open Space Forum will attract new members.

REPORTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence noted as listed on agenda with no further comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements noted as listed on agenda with no further comments.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the East Amwell Municipal Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. by motion of Kat Cannelongo, second by Pat Cregar and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:
Martha Pittore, Secretary