

MINUTES: Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee  
Meeting held May 14, 2012

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
May 14, 2012**

Members

Present	Glorianne Robbi	Chair
	Dick Ginman	Vice Chair
	Pat Cregar	Committee Member and Mayor's Designee
	Fred Gardner	Committee Member and Planning Board Liaison
	Kat Cannelongo	Committee Member and Historical Preservation Liaison

Members

Absent: none

Alternates Present:	Bill duFosse	Alternate 1 – Ag Advisory Liaison
	Joan Sank	Alternate 2

Alternates

Absent: none

Others:	Toni Robbi	Liaison – Environmental Committee
	Judy Conard	Administrator
	Christine Rosikiewicz	Secretary

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Dick Ginman.

**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 19, 2012 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On May 9, 2012 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 G. Robbi to open the meeting to the public; K. Cannelongo seconded the motion. Being no public present a motion was made by F. Gardner to close the meeting to the public, second by P. Cregar. Motion carried.

**MINUTES OF MEETING held April 9, 2012:**

Fred Gardner made a motion to approve the April 9, 2012 meeting minutes with one typographical error corrected; K. Cannelongo seconded the motion. All were in favor with B. duFosse' and J. Sank abstaining. The motion carried.

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

**A motion made by F. Gardner to pay bills as listed on the agenda, second by K. Cannelongo. Motion carried.**

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

**Under New Business:**

- Wind Power : Fred Gardner
- Stonybrook Trail: Dick Ginman
- Preserved Properties / Categories: Fred Gardiner
- Annual Letter: Kat Cannelongo

**ACTIVE PROPERTIES UPDATE/ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

Judy Conard made the following report:

- Scibilia: J. Conard reported that there is nothing new to report; an updated survey was delivered.
- Hay: This application ranked third in the County; the Freeholders have a resolution to accept the proposed list. Once approved an appraisal can be done.
- Jorgensen: The survey is underway; closing in June.
- Drift: Hunterdon Land Trust believes it will close in May. FOSPC is ready to go. Funding was approved by Township Committee last year; Glorianne Robbi advised Township Committee of this at their meeting in April.
- Lang: There was a public hearing on the funding ordinance on Thursday; it was passed. Funds will be available by the end of May for the closing. The County provided a grant from Open Space Funds to D&R for a share of the payment for closing. The State will use the wells on the property for monitoring therefore saving the Township the \$3,000 cost to cap them.
- Plimpton: D&R received an inquiry from a neighbor regarding the property.
- CADB Staffing: Rick Steffey has been rehired by the County.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Approve final revised Ranking Criteria for scoring farms:

J. Conard provided the Committee with the updated ranking criteria. There were two updates. The divisor was changed for one calculation. The other was to add: "Parcels under twenty-five acres will be considered if land directly abuts another preserved property". Discussion included these points:

- The CADB will not consider cost sharing on a property under twenty-five acres unless it has the same owner as the adjoining preserved property.
- G. Robbi noted that if the properties have different owners it would not be sensible financially.
- F. Gardner said the properties could always be considered.

**F. Gardner made a motion to approve the divisor change and to not approve the statement regarding acreage criteria; G. Robbi seconded it. All were in favor; the motion was passed.**

MINUTES: Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee  
Meeting held May 14, 2012

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Resolution by CADB giving preliminary approval to farms for this round of funding:  
D. Ginman reported on this item including feedback about the process from the Freeholder meeting. There were numerous East Amwell residents present. D. Ginman advised FOSPC that the County has a “cooperative program” to facilitate shared funding. A discussion ensued on access to County grants and funding including farmland, open space and historic preservation. The length of time it takes to approve applications was commented on.
- K Cannelongo reported that restoration of the Clawson House will take place in phases. The County provided a grant of \$64,000 to begin restoration of the outside. The East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee has applied for a second grant to continue the work.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Stonybrook Trail:

Mr. Ginman discussed the possibility of building a trail from Snyderstown Road to Route 518 using a property with a deeded trail easement. D&R is not interested in this project. Mr. Ginman has been in touch with Green Acres. Green Acres will provide the contact at Parks & Forestry, the agency that holds the trail easement.

Wind Power:

Mr. Gardner suggested Judy Conard draft a resolution urging the SADC to publish regulations on wind power on preserved farms. B. duFosse commented that he is trying to obtain an extension of his grant for cost sharing on a wind power installation. Under terms of the grant, he and other farmers need to start construction by August 16, 2012.

**Mr. Gardner made a motion for the committee to draft a resolution urging the SADC to publish regulations on wind power on preserved farms; G. Robbi seconded. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

Inquiry from D&R Greenway on Block 35 Lots 51 and 52:

The committee briefly detailed this property. Ms. Robbi reported that D&R Greenway will pursue it.

Preserved Properties / Categories:

F. Gardner noted that statistics on the number of preserved acres and the category of preserved land varies widely. G. Robbi reviewed the map of preserved properties in the Township with the Committee. The issue will be addressed when the 2012 map of preserved properties is published to include as part of the FOSPC Annual Report to residents.

Annual Report to East Amwell Residents

Ms. Cannelongo inquired regarding the theme of the annual report. It was suggested that the importance of partners in preservation projects be included as well as the importance of shared funding to make more projects possible. K. Cannelongo will contact J. Conard in June to discuss the contents of the annual letter.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

**Historic Preservation:**

- See K. Cannelongo report under Old Business.

MINUTES: Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee  
Meeting held May 14, 2012

**Planning Board:**

- Mr. Gardner reported that a resolution on the solar ordinance was sent to Township Committee. It was noted that the solar program has “ground to a halt”.

**Agricultural Advisory Committee:**

- No report.

**Environmental Commission:**

- Mr. Robbi reported that letters were sent to three landowners regarding inspection of easements.
- The Plant Exchange did not take place this year but it will likely resume in 2013.
- Preparation for the 4H Fair is underway. He invited FOSPC to share the space reserved at the Fair by the Environmental Commission.
- Trail building volunteers are being recruited to work on the proposed trails for Omick and Stony Brook.

**Recreation Committee:**

- Ms. Rosikiewicz reported that the Recreation Committee still needs volunteers to re-organize. At this point, there will be no recreation programs this year with the possible exception of the Tree Lighting held in December.

**REPORTS:**

There were no additional reports.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There were no comments on any correspondence.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Noted with no additional comment.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

**D.Ginman opened the meeting to the public. Being no public present F. Gardner made a motion to close to the public; P. Cregar seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Christine Rosikiewicz, Secretary