

MINUTES: Farmland and Open Space Committee  
October 8, 2012

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
October 8, 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

Alternates

Present:	Bill duFosse	Alternate 1 – Ag Advisory Liaison
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Alternates

Absent:	Joan Sank	Alternate 2
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Liaisons

Present:	Toni Robbi	Environmental Commission
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Others:

Judy Conard	Administrator
Christine Rosikiewicz	Secretary

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:35p.m.

**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 October 3, 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:**

**Being that there was no public present F. Gardner made a motion to close the meeting to the public; P. Cregar seconded it. All were in favor; the meeting was closed to the public.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Minutes of the meeting held September 10, 2012: D. Ginman made a motion to approve the September 10, 2012 meeting minutes; P. Cregar seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.**

MINUTES: Farmland and Open Space Committee  
October 8, 2012

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

**A motion made by D. Ginman to pay bills as listed on the agenda, second by P. Cregar. All were in favor; motion carried.**

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

Under Unfinished Business:

- Memo from FOSPC to East Amwell Township Committee re: Update on Four Projects – Hay, Wiedemer, Polhemus and Plimpton

**ACTIVE PROPERTIES UPDATE/ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

Judy Conard made the following report:

- Scibilia: Jessica Uttel at SADC believes this property will close by the end of October.
- Hay: This property will be discussed under Unfinished Business
- Perkovich: Stephanie Miller has met with the family; she will follow up.
- It was noted that the rest of the property updates will be discussed under Unfinished Business

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Report on South County Playing Fields:

- Thyra Zengel from Amwell Attitude softball was present for this portion of the meeting. D. Ginman reported that he met with John Quirke from SCSL and Alan George and the AVLBL board including Tim Mathews. Mr. Ginman provided a map of the County owned property; it is located in West Amwell across from the fairgrounds and is a little over 200 acres. This property was designated for recreation by the County. D. Ginman recalled how the Committee had looked at many properties in East Amwell for possible playing fields and did not find any useful land for fields. Eight years ago FOSPC attempted to develop this land into fields without success. Funding for possible construction of fields was discussed. D. Ginman suggested Ms. Zengel, Mr. Quirk and Mr. George all meet and he offered to join them. C. Rosikiewicz will ask the County to put this item on the Freeholder's agenda for November 5, 2012. (Note that the meeting date has since been changed to November 7, 2012.) The Committee discussed the usable space and types of playing fields that could be constructed with Ms. Zengel.

Report on various trail building projects by Mr. Ginman

- *Lang Omick Trail*, The grant application for this project is pending. Successful applications should be announced soon.
- *Stonybrook Trail may be named the East Fork Trail*. The Committee discussed parking for the trail; D. Ginman met with John Glynn regarding this. D. Ginman shared a Memorandum of Understanding with the Committee; he will share this with Township Committee on Thursday. Considerations for the trail were discussed including management of the property and insurance.

Memo from FOSPC to East Amwell Township Committee on Four Projects

- Hay: This application received approval from Hunterdon County and Ms. Hay signed the Option Agreement required by the County. The next step is to obtain two appraisals. FOSPC is requesting funding for the two appraisals on this property.
- Wiedemer: G. Robbi provided the Committee with maps of this property; there are two contiguous parcels of wooded land. FOSPC will discuss funding for this property with the Township Committee.
- Polhemus Properties: The Township Committee is asked to approve funding for 50% of the cost these properties. D&R Greenway will fund the other 50%.
- Plimpton: This property is 26 acres on Rileyville Rd. FOSPC is requesting funds for one appraisal.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- D. Ginman is working on a presentation on farmland preservation for a group in a neighboring township. The Committee discussed a possible education forum for Township residents utilizing this presentation. Suggestions included working with the Agricultural Advisory Committee and having speakers from the SADC and/or non-profit groups.
- D. Ginman shared a book on preserving NJ Farmland through effective tax policy titled "Gaining Ground" by Allison Mitchell. It was commented that this would be a great subject for the forum.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- **Historic Preservation:** no report
- **Planning Board:** F. Garder reported that there was no meeting last month; the next meeting is October 10.
- **Agricultural Advisory:**
  - B. du Fosse' reported that the Ag Advisory Committee will not host a forum this fall. The possibility of a joint forum with FOSPC in the spring was discussed.
  - B. du Fosse' received a letter from the State that his grant for wind power has been "taken away" as the grant program has been eliminated. He commented that SADC has not yet made rules for wind power on preserved farms and this long delay caused him to lose the funding. Bill du Fosse' discussed the financing and maintenance of preserved properties. His remarks are provided in detail as an addendum to these minutes.
- **Environmental Commission:** T. Robbi reported that there is a general disappointment with the level of recycling in the County and Township. Commercial establishments in the township and the lack of recycling at the Fairgrounds have negatively impacted the ratio.

**REPORTS**

- **SADC:** G. Robbi reported that the Township received an additional grant of \$500,000 for farmland preservation from SADC. These funds are the final distribution from monies approved by voters when the last bond issue was on the ballot.

MINUTES: Farmland and Open Space Committee  
October 8, 2012

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence was noted without comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next CADB meeting is October 11.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

**Being there was no public present F. Garder made a motion to close to the public; D. Ginman seconded it. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. by motion of P. Cregar, second by D. Ginman and carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Christine Rosikiewicz, Secretary