

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 12, 2012**

Members

Present:	Glorianne Robbi	Chair
	Dick Ginman	Vice Chair

Alternates

Present:	Bill duFosse'	Alternate 1 – and Ag Advisory Liaison
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Liaisons

Present:	Toni Robbi	Environmental Commission Liaison
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Members	Fred Gardner	Committee Member & Planning Bd Liaison
Absent:	Pat Cregar	Committee Member and Mayor's Designee
	Kat Cannelongo	Committee Member and Historical Preservation Liaison

Alternates

Absent:	Joan Sank	Alternate 2
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Others:	Judy Conard	Administrator
	Christine Rosikiewicz	Secretary

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:34p.m. by Mr. Ginman. It was noted that Mr. Ginman and Ms. Robbi alternate chairing the monthly meetings.

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 November 7, 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:

Ms. Robbi made a motion to open to the public. Mr. duFosse' seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were present and wished to speak to the committee regarding the Plimpton property. Their home (block 38 lot 3.01) is on a one acre lot adjacent to the Plimpton property. They are in favor of the preservation of the Plimpton property. They would like the opportunity to purchase additional land from the estate before preservation in order to have the area needed for a replacement septic system on their property if needed in the future. Ms. Conard explained that the Plimpton project is still in the discussion stage

with the owners. She will keep the Smith's informed as the discussion proceeds.. Mr. and Mrs. Smith thanked the Committee and left the meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING held October 15, 2012: This item was tabled to the December meeting.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL:

A motion was made G. Robbi to pay the bills as listed on the agenda, second by B. duFosse'. All were in favor; motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: There were no additions to the agenda.

ACTIVE PROPERTIES UPDATE/ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Judy Conard made the following report:

Scibilia: Closing is scheduled for November. There was a small change in the acreage total. There are details to be worked out but no red flags.

Hay: Bids have been received for the appraisal.

Prosser: This application was submitted from Mr. Prosser directly to the County.

Perkovich: The state is working on this property; J. Conard will follow up this week.

Plimpton: Ms. Conard has quotes for the appraisal. The Township Committee approved funding for one appraisal. Price expectations are needed from the estate before the appraisal is ordered.

Weidemer: The offer to sell at certified value was accepted.

Polhemus: D&R finished negotiations and hopes to close by year end.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Forum: Time does not permit a forum with the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) in the fall. The committee members and Secretary summarized the past AAC forums and several possible topics were discussed. Mr. Ginman commented favorably on the forum last fall regarding storm preparation. Ms. Robbi suggested an information meeting by FOSPC to inform residents about farmland preservation. It was suggested that discussion continue with AAC and this program be held in late March of 2013.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bond Ordinance: Ms. Robbi reported that the administrative correction needed to approve the bond ordinance for funding on two farmland preservation projects passed last year without a super majority vote but approved in November with a super majority required under state rules.

NEW BUSINESS:

Targeted Farm List: J. Conard provided committee members with a tentative 2013 list of targeted farms that will become part of the annual update to SADC. Farms preserved last year are removed and possible additions to the list discussed.

Hay Appraisal: The appraisal bids for the Hay property were provided to the committee. Two appraisals are required by SADC.

G. Robbi made a motion to accept the two lowest bids; B. duFosse' seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.

Plimpton Appraisal:

G. Robbi made a motion to authorize J. Conard to award the one Plimpton appraisal to the lowest bidder only after discussions are complete with the owners regarding their price expectations; B. duFosse' seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

Report on Township Committee meeting held November 8, 2012: R. Ginman reported that Attorney Cushing is reviewing the memorandum of understanding for the proposed trails on the State and Rambling Pines property.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **Historic Preservation:** T. Robbi reported that Jim Davidson has co-authored a book on the Lindbergh kidnapping.
- **Planning Board:** No report
- **Agricultural Advisory:** The Farm Forum was covered earlier in the meeting.
- **Environmental Committee:**

Well Testing: Mr. Robbi reported that approximately fifty residents took part in the recent well testing program. Results will be available in a few weeks; the results are private between the testing company and the homeowner.

Trails:

- A small crew went out to the Omick property to begin work.
- The committee will find out about grant money approval in December.
- The committee is awaiting the memorandum of agreement for the Stonybrook / East Fork property.
- **Recreation Committee:**

Tree Lighting: C. Rosikiewicz announced that the 23rd Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for Sunday, December 9th at 4:30p.m. She is looking for volunteers to help with the event.

Playing Fields: D. Ginman commented on the great job Thyra Zengel did leading the discussion at the Freeholder's meeting. This request has been referred to the Parks department who are meeting on December 3rd. C. Rosikiewicz will find out the time of this meeting, request this item be added to the agenda, and advise all parties of it. G. Robbi expressed thanks to D. Ginman and C. Rosikiewicz for their work on this project.

CORRESPONDENCE: Noted with no further comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

SADC: No report

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: There was no public present.

NEXT MEETING: The next FOSPC meeting is December 10th. The next Township Committee meeting is December 13th.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. by motion of R. Ginman, second by B. duFosse' and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:
Christine Rosikiewicz, Secretary