

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 9, 2012**

Members

Present: Glorianne Robbi Chair
 Dick Ginman Co-Chair
 Kat Cannelongo Committee Member and Historic Preservation Liaison
 Fred Gardner Committee Member and Planning Board Liaison
 Bill duFosse' Alternate 1 and Agricultural Advisory Liaison

Members

Absent: Pat Cregar Township Committee- Mayors Designee
 Joan Sank Alternate 2

Liaisons

Present: Toni Robbi Environmental Commission

Others: Judy Conard Administrator
 Christine Rosikiewicz Secretary

IN COMPLIANCE WITH the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is the re-organization meeting of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 22, 2011 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On January 4, 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.

REORGANIZATION MEETING: Judy Conard chaired the re-organization meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Election of Chair: Dick Ginman moved to nominate Glorianne Robbi for Chair, second by Fred Gardner. No further nominations were made. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Vice Chair: Fred Gardner moved to nominate Dick Ginman for Vice-Chair, second by Kat Cannelongo. No further nominations were made. Motion carried unanimously.

Glorianne Robbi chaired the re-organization meeting as follows:

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Approve regular meeting date: A motion was made by Fred Gardner to keep the regular meeting date as the second Monday of each month in 2012; second by Kat Cannelongo. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Hunterdon County Democrat as place for publication of legal notices for 2012: A motion was made by Kat Cannelongo to approve Hunterdon County Democrat for publication of legal notices for 2012, second by Fred Gardner. Motion carried unanimously.

Review committee membership and liaison committee members. The list was reviewed; it was noted there is no Recreation Liaison at this time.

Review ordinance governing function of FOSPC: Chapter 26-Ordinance establishing the committee. FOSPC held a brief discussion specific to article 26-7 (Powers and duties of Committee):

Glorianne Robbi reviewed the positions in FOSPC and functions of the committee.

One of the functions of the committee is to develop an update on criteria for open space and farmland for the Township Committee's approval; Glorianne Robbi suggested the criteria be reviewed next month.

Dick Ginman commented that the duties of the committee do not include developing the open space. It was noted the ordinance was drafted in 2003. He suggested this item and how to finance or promote more uses of open space be considered when reviewing; Glorianne Robbi said this item could be discussed at the February meeting.

The regular meeting commenced at this time.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION:

Grace Messinger and Patrick Natalie from North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development (NJ RC&D) were present to provide information on programs and services offered to help manage Open Space. NJ RC&D is a non-profit organization. One of their most recent and largest projects was stream restoration at Walnut Brook in Raritan Township. They have been involved in watershed projects and stewardship of open space. There is a three tiered approach including inventorying open space, planning for utilization of the space and implementing the plan.

Patrick Natalie explained the River Friendly Farm Program and provided pamphlets to the Committee. It is a voluntary certification program. There are forty-two farms in the Raritan Basin signed up; sixteen are certified. The Committee discussed this program with Mr. Natalie.

Ms. Messinger and Mr. Natalie left at this time.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

A motion was made by Dick Ginman to open the meeting to the public, second by Kat Cannelongo. All were in favor; the motion was carried.

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Rd. commented on the farms along the Neshanic River that have been or will soon be in solar development. She noted that recommendations for specific seed mix could be made to the Planning Board for the open space on these properties and inquired how the land will be managed once it comes out of agriculture and is leased to utility companies. She suggested bird habitats and trails be considered by solar developers. The effect of different mowing schedules on birds and nearby farms was discussed. Ms. Gavigan suggested putting together points and concerns of regular consequences and noted an obligation to mitigate regular effects. It was noted that by several FOSPC members that the Planning Board has expertise and is responsible for this.

A motion was made by Dick Ginman to close the meeting to the public, second by Fred Gardner. All were in favor; the motion was carried.

MINUTES OF MEETING held November 14, 2011:

A motion was made by Dick Ginman to approve the minutes, second by Fred Gardner. Motion carried.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL:

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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Ms. Robbi advised the committee to start planning for the public information program on Farmland Preservation. Mr. Ginman reminded the Committee of the annual report.

ACTIVE PROPERTIES UPDATE/ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: In addition to the written report, Judy Conard reported that she sent a letter on December 14, 2011 to Mr. and Mrs. Wiedemer to ask them to contact D&R Greenway. There has been no response.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Targeted Farms List:** Glorianne Robbi discussed reviewing the list of targeted farms; she asked Judy Conard to send it to the Committee to discuss in February.
- **Possible Trail Projects:** Dick Ginman announced that Federal Trail Applications are due by February 15th. The Committee discussed possible projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Website:** G. Robbi referred to the Environmental Commission's suggesting FOSPC update its website and C. Rosikiewicz's previous suggestion that public trails be publicized. The Committee discussed what content should be on the website.

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- **Budget:** J. Conard provided copies of the 2012 proposed budget in the packet and reviewed it with the committee; she will modify it if necessary. G. Robbi said Green Acres funding will be discussed at the February meeting.
- Mr. Ginman made a motion to accept the proposed 2012 budget. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **Historic Preservation:** Kat Cannelongo reported that grant money was received for the Clawson House which will possibly be used for siding and windows.
- **Planning Board:** Fred Gardner reported that the next Planning Board meeting is Wednesday night. The revised solar plan for Stahl and a subdivision on Back Brook Road will be discussed.
- **Ag Advisory:** Bill duFosse' stated the re-organization meeting is next week.
- **Environmental Commission:** Toni Robbi stated that they will meet in two weeks.
- **Recreation Committee:** No designated liaison at this time.

REPORTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Article from NY Times: November 13, 2011: Young Farmers Find Huge Obstacles to Getting Started: The Committee briefly discussed this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Judy Conard announced that she will be out of the office from January 18th to January 25th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 by motion of Dick Ginman, second by Kat Cannelongo and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:
Christine Rosikiewicz
Secretary