

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 13, 2012**

Members

Present:	Glorianne Robbi	Chair
	Dick Ginman	Vice Chair
	Fred Gardner	Committee Member and Planning Board Liaison

Members	Pat Cregar	Mayor's Designee
Absent:	Kat Cannelongo	Committee Member and Historical Preservation Liaison

Alternates

Present:	Bill duFosse'	Alternate 1 and 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

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 February 8, 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 Dick Ginman to open the meeting to the public, second by Fred Gardner. Motion carried.

Debbie Sowsian Farrante introduced herself to the Committee. Her late parents owned a preserved farm in East Amwell and an adjoining second 6.5 acre approved building lot with a well. She and her four siblings would like to preserve the 6.5 lot. The Committee referenced the tax map and discussed the location of the property. Mr. Gardner explained that usually the Township will only consider properties that are twenty-five acres or more but because this property would be added to land that is already preserved it could be considered. Mr. Gardner explained the appraisal process to Ms. Farrante. Favorable comments were made about the view on the property. It was determined that Ms. Conard would contact the County and the State regarding preservation of this property and follow up with Ms. Farrante.

Dick Ginman made a motion to close to the public. Second by F. Gardner. All were in favor; the motion carried.

MINUTES OF MEETING held January 9, 2012. A motion was made by Fred Gardner to approve the minutes with amendments, second by Dick Ginman. Motion carried.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL:

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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

F. Gardner provided the Committee with a schedule of 2012 Public Trail Walks that D&R Greenway Land Trust is holding. D&R Greenway would like FOSPC to assist in publicizing these walks. The committee responded positively and it was suggested the information be published in the VIP and in the municipal building lobby.

New Business:	Trails Grant	Judy Conard
	Green Acres –Grant for Additional Funding	Judy Conard

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

Scibilia: FOSPC met with Township Committee and provided an update to them. The Committee discussed possible actions to close on this property.

Hay: This property was taken off the February CADB agenda. It will be considered at the March meeting.

Jorgensen: There will be a decision on this property on February 27, 2012.

Drift: A registered letter was sent to Mr. Drift from Hunterdon Land Trust informing him of the March deadline.

Lang: Waiting for certified market value from Green Acres.

Plimpton: This property is under consideration by the Park Commission.

Perkovich: Ms. Conard talked to an owner who expressed interested in preservation.

Prosser: Mr. Jenkinson is renting the Prosser property. Mr. Jenkinson advised Ms. Conard that Mr. Prosser may be interested in preservation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Recreational Trails grant Application: G. Robbi reported that the application is ready to go in the mail tomorrow. J. Conard provided a narrative and spreadsheet outlining the grant request. It was noted that the Environmental Commission and D&R Greenway support the proposed trail.

D. Ginman made a motion that the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee support the Recreational Trails Grant Application, second by Fred Gardner All were in favor; the motion passed.

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Green Acres Open Space Funding Request: J. Conard provided the Committee with the open space funding request and reviewed the properties listed with the Committee. The Committee discussed the funding request.

Dick Ginman made a motion for the Farmland Open Space and Preservation Committee to submit the proposed funding request to Green Acres; Fred Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Criteria for Farmland Preservation - Eligibility: J. Conard had previously provided the committee with eligibility criteria for the municipal PIG program and the County preservation program. The current eligibility requirements were discussed.

D. Ginman made a motion to approve the current municipal PIG criteria with the addition that lots less than 25 acres could be considered if that property adjoins preserved lands. F. Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Review – List of Targeted Farms and Outreach to Landowners: The Committee discussed and updated the list of targeted farms prepared by Judy Conard. Outreach letters will be sent to property owners noted.

Development of Open Space Properties: G. Robbi asked the Committee if development of open space properties with public access should be a role for FOSPC; it was agreed that it should be.

County Plans to furlough staff at County Planning Board: The Committee discussed possible staffing changes on the County Planning Board.

LIAISON REPORTS

Historic Preservation: No report.

Planning Board: F. Gardner reported:

- The Stahl application for a solar installation on his farm was withdrawn.
- The Thompson subdivision on Back Brook Rd. was approved consisting of six houses on 62 acres. Three of the lots will have road frontage; three will be flag lots.
- Gail Skupien is the new Planning Board member. Don Reilly was elected Chair.

Agricultural Advisory Committee: B. duFosse' reported that the AAC had their reorganizational meeting in January; Frances Gavigan was elected Chair.

Environmental Committee: Shawn Grace has joined the Environmental Committee; Mike Petrus was elected Chair. The Committee will be creating an educational brochure in conjunction with D&R.

Recreation Committee: Christine Rosikiewicz reported that the Recreation Committee currently only has two members. Two additional members are needed before it can reorganize for this year.

REPORTS:

SADC: G. Robbi advised the Committee that the SADC meeting is on February 26th. She noted the Delaware Township Farmland Preservation Plan was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The following items of correspondence were noted:

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- SADC Draft copy of proposed Agricultural Management Practices (AMP) for farm markets was available for review. Comment period ends 4/15/12.
- Letter from SADC announcing a project under auspices of federal Beginning Rancher and Farmer program and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual NJ Conservation Foundation Land Rally is scheduled for March 10 at Brookdale Community College. A tour of Duke Farms is scheduled for March 9.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Chair Robbi opened the meeting to the public. No members of the public spoke. F. Gardner made a motion to close to the public; Dick Ginman seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. by motion of Fred Gardner, second by Dick Ginman and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:
Christine Rosikiewicz, Secretary