

MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
November 11, 2013; East Amwell Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202, Ringoes, New Jersey

Call to Order

The meeting of the East Amwell Farmland & Open Space Preservation Committee was called to order at 7:33 PM by Chairwoman Glorianne Robbi. The following notice was read into the record by Recording Secretary Scott Bauman: *“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the annual meeting notice as published in the January 31, 2013, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat, a copy of the agenda for this meeting was forwarded to the Township Clerk’s Office, posted on the municipal bulletin board, and faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat.”*

2013 Attendance

Member / Liaison	Appointment Designation: Term Expires	1/14/13	2/11/13	3/11/13	4/8/13	5/13/13	6/10/13	8/5/13	9/9/13	10/14/13	11/11/13	12/9/13
Kat Cannelongo	FOSPC: 12/31/13	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	
Patricia Cregar	FOSPC Mayor’s Designee: 12/31/13	X	X			X		X				
Kit Crisafulli	Agricultural Advisory Committee Liaison: 12/31/13	n/a	X	X		X				X		
Pete Fick	FOSPC Alt. II: 12/31/14 & Rec. Comm. Liaison: 12/31/13	n/a	X	X	X		X			X	X	
Fred Gardner	FOSPC: 12/31/15 & Planning Board Liaison: 12/31/13	X	X		X		X		X	X	X	
Dick Ginman	FOSPC: 12/31/15 (Vice Chairman)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
David Harding	Historic Preservation Committee Liaison: 12/31/13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		X	
Glorianne Robbi	FOSPC: 12/31/14 (Chairwoman)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Toni Robbi	Environmental Commission Liaison: 12/31/13	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Joan Sank	FOSPC Alt. I: 12/31/13	X		X	X	X			X		X	

Others present on 11/11/13: FOSPC Administrator & Recording Secretary Scott Bauman

Open to the Public

Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to open the meeting to the public; Ms. Cannelongo seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote. There were no members of the public present. Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to close the meeting to the public; Ms. Cannelongo seconded the motion and with no further discussion, it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of October 14, 2013, Meeting Minutes

After a brief discussion over a few grammatical changes, Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to approve the October 14, 2013, meeting minutes as revised; Ms. Cannelongo seconded the motion and with no further discussion, it was approved unanimously by voice vote. Ms. Sank abstained from voting.

Approval of Bills

Motion made by Vice Chairman Ginman, seconded by Ms. Cannelongo, the Committee unanimously approved payment by voice vote of the following invoice:

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Oct. 2013	Scott Bauman, FOSPC Administrator	\$355.00	17.75 hours @\$20.00 / hour

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FOSPC Administrator's Report

1. Perkovich Parcels (Bl 3, Lots 5 & 6) 72 acres

Mr. Bauman informed the Committee that the SADC has made a direct purchase offer to the owners and that there is a time period for the owner to reply to the SADC's offer. Chairwoman Robbi said she is planning on calling the SADC to confirm that the time period has not lapsed.

2. Hay Parcel (Bl 21, Lot 16.03); Rainbow Road; 24 acres

- Mr. Bauman reminded the Committee that this is a \$361,200 development easement grant application (60% SADC, 20% county, 20% municipal contributions) submitted in April 2012. In May 2013 the SADC approved the purchase and the Township Committee approved it via resolution #64-13. The property owner signed the contract and returned it to the Freeholders. The application is expected to be closed by early 2014.
- Mr. Bauman informed those present that the Township Committee is scheduled to vote on a resolution approving Heritage Consulting Engineers for surveying services not to exceed \$3,750 in November. Should the Committee approve the resolution, Mr. Bauman would proceed with obtaining a services contract.

3. Plimpton Parcel (Bl 38, Lot 3) 26 acres

- Mr. Bauman reminded the Committee that this is an approved County Cooperative Grant for \$350,000 (50% Green Acres, 20% D&R Greenway Land Trust, 20% municipal / county cooperative grant, 7% municipal share of county open space funds, 3% municipal open space funds).
- Vice Chairman Ginman informed those present that we are now dealing with a new executor; D&R Greenway Land Trust has already signed the contract, a subdivision is needed. Chairwoman Robbi asked who takes title to the open land and that should be checked with D&R; the township can transfer responsibility to either D&R, or Green Acres.

4. Ridge Road Assemblage (Bl 34, Lots 18, 19, 19.01, 21.01, 21.02) 40 acres

Mr. Bauman reminded the Committee that this is a County Cooperative Grant for \$600,000 (50% Green Acres, 30% county open space trust funds, and 20% D&R Greenway Land Trust) submitted in July 2013. The county is expected to make their funding decision in October. Vice Chairman Ginman said one of the property owners is officially on board, but he was not sure about the others. Chairwoman Robbi said that she confirmed with Green Acres that they are holding onto our funds (*which was \$103,800 as of June, 2013-sb*).

5. Scibilia Property (Bl 11, Lot 37); 95 John Ringo Road; 40 acres

The Township Committee is trying to negotiate with the property owner concerning a mowing covenant. Once an amended deed of easement is agreed upon, the township will receive approximately \$192,000 when the project is closed. There is no update on this issue to report.

6. Van Doren Parcel (Bl 35, Lot 58); South Hill Road; 8.59 acres

Mr. Bauman reminded the Committee that in September, D&R Greenway Land Trust received a cold call about this parcel and the Committee told D&R to pursue the lead. Chairwoman Robbi said

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she spoke to D&R about this parcel and perhaps it is a better fit with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. D&R was fine with the township presenting this matter to other non-profit groups.

7. East Jersey Developers Parcel (Bl 35, Lot 18.01); 18 South Hill Road; 10 acres

Mr. Bauman reminded the Committee that this parcel made the radar in September; it is 50% owned by an estate, and 50% by an individual. There is a telecommunications tower on the property and the matter of removal will need to be remedied. The property would be grandfathered as a building lot. Vice Chairman Ginman said there is no update on this property, but he did learn that it was once owned by Bell Atlantic.

Old Business

1. Prioritizing The Projects

After hearing and discussing the FOSPC's report, the Committee prioritized the projects in the following order: 1) the 26 acre Plimpton parcel on Ridge Road; 2) the 40 acre Ridge Road assemblage proposal; and 3) the 7.51 acre Hermine Van Doren parcel on South Hill Road. Back burner projects at this time are the East Jersey Developers parcel, and the 8.59 acre Van Doren parcel on South Hill Road. During the discussion, Chairwoman Robbi distributed 11" x 17" color property parcel map of the township showing the location of all preserved properties.

2. Stony Brook Trail "Rambling Pines": Block 41, Lots 44 & 45

In February 2013 the township signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the DEP for hiking trails; the township is still awaiting DEP signatures. Mr. Bauman followed up with the DEP twice and is still awaiting a response. Committee members discussed some new contacts that were to inquire with the state as to the status of the MOA. Besides the MOA matter, Vice Chairman Ginman said that there is a strip of land on Snyderstown Road just logged over, he is curious as to whether the owner would consider selling. Vice Chairman Ginman showed those present a tax maps showing Block 41, Lot 28.

3. Pilipshen Parcel, Block 40, Lot 17.01; Snyderstown Road, 4.07 acres

Chairwoman Robbi reported that D&R and the owner's attorney have been communicating and that D&R sent the owner's attorney a Green Acres application. It is the hope that Green Acres would be interested in purchasing the property outright themselves.

4. Block 40.03, Lots 16.01 & 16.02; 252 Rileyville Road.

Mr. Bauman informed the Committee that he recently met with the property owner to discuss the process of open space preservation in the township, and how we partner with other government entities and non-profit groups to achieve preservation goals. During the meeting Mr. Bauman and the owner discussed the particulars of the subject properties, including existing structures on the properties, the present zoning, and the proximity of the properties to nearby preserved parcels. Mr. Bauman provided the owner with D&R's contact information and the owner said he would contact them.

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New Business

1. Planning for 2014 FOSPC Budget

The Committee reviewed the 2013 budget and after brief discussion it was agreed to recommend the increase of the Administration Expenses line item from \$1,250 to \$1,500.

2. Planning for 2014 GreenFest: April 5, 2014

- Chairwoman Robbi said that she, Vice Chairman Ginman, and Chairman of the Environmental Commission Michael Petrus recently met with the Principal and Superintendent of the East Amwell School system to discuss Greenfest 2014 and the possibility of hosting it at the school; both were fine with the idea and were happy to host the event. Chairwoman Robbi said that the school would provide for and set up tables.
- A discussion ensued over the possible layouts of the event in the auditorium. Chairman Robbi continued her update by informing those present that she gave the school a list of the groups who participated in 2013. Chairwoman Robbi asked those present to come up with some feedback for the December meeting- come up with suggestions, additional participants, and what ways you can help facilitate the event- email to Mr. Bauman and Chairwoman Robbi and get it out in time before the next meeting packet.
- Ms. Cannelongo asked if there are kitchen facilities; Chairwoman Robbi responded “yes.” A suggestion was made to contact Duke Farms, the Audubon Society, Fire Department, CERT, Historic Society, DEP as possible participants. The Committee agreed to schedule the Greenfest between 9am and 1pm. Chairwoman Robbi suggested hosting a screening Jarod Fleshr’s DVD on the Sourlands and sustainable farming- he is a resident in East Amwell. Ms. Cannelongo suggested taking a picture of each preserved open space and having the pictures rotate on a PowerPoint presentation during the day.

Liaison Report: David Harding- Historic Preservation Committee

Mr. Harding reported that Clawson House repairs are being made to the back of the house, critter holes are being patched up. The Historic Preservation Committee has been busy with updating the township’s 1975 local historic landmark review- the goal is to photograph and describe 5 properties a month. The Design Awards may possibly be presented on December 14, 2013. There is not much new to report on the Dippolito Farm, and the Larison drama presentation is being planned for February, 2014.

Liaison Report: Fred Gardner- Planning Board

Mr. Gardner was not present to provide a report.

Liaison Report: Kit Crisafulli- Agricultural Advisory Committee

Mr. Crisafulli was not present to provide a report.

Liaison Report: Toni Robbi- Environmental Commission

Mr. Robbi reported that the hearing date for the Route 202 Hess gas station / convenience store for a use variance for an expansion is scheduled for November 12, 2013. Mr. Robbi reported good progress being made on the Rocktown Woods Preserve 2.1 mile trail project- every Sunday between 9 am and 12 pm

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all are invited to come out and pitch in. It is a goal to have the official trail opening on May 17, 2014. In 2014 there is a stream cleanup scheduled for April 19, a roadside cleanup scheduled for April 26, and a plant exchange scheduled for May 3.

Liaison Report: Peter Fick- Recreation Committee

Mr. Fick reported that the Recreation Committee had a quorum last month and they welcomed new member Chris Kellogg aboard. The tree trimming is scheduled for December 8, 2013 and he is looking for volunteers to help out.

Mr. Fick reported that a meeting about the proposed South County Park was held in late October and Thyra Zengel attended the meeting with officials from West Amwell and Delaware townships. Mr. Fick read aloud the following list of park facilities that was prepared as a result of that meeting.

- a) Field hockey / lacrosse field
- b) Soccer field
- c) 60 x 90 baseball field
- d) 2 smaller baseball fields- 40 x 60, and potentially a 60 x 70 softball / baseball field
- e) Equipment shed, bathrooms, concessions
- f) Walking path
- g) Fencing- not elaborate but will need dugouts with backstops; this can be done in phases
- h) Parking
- i) Picnic pavilion

Mr. Fick added that the list will be delivered to the freeholders. It is the intent that the list will be given to the county engineering department that will place cost estimates on each item at which point there would be more involved discussions.

Reports

Mr. Bauman reported that he along with Chairwoman Robbi and Vice Chairman Ginman attended a meeting with CADB staff on October 10, 2013 to discuss ongoing grant applications that are in the FOSPC Administrator's Report.

Adjournment

A motion by Vice Chairman Ginman, seconded by Ms. Cannelongo to adjourn was unanimously approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2013, at 7:30 PM in the East Amwell Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/ Scott Bauman

Scott Bauman, Recording Secretary
November 30, 2013

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chairwoman Robbi

MOTION SECONDED BY: Ms. Sank

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: December 9, 2013