

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP  
FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 11, 2013**

Members

Present:	Dick Ginman	Vice Chair
	Fred Gardner	Committee Member & Planning Board Liaison
	Pat Cregar	Committee Member and Mayor's Designee
	Kat Cannelongo	Committee Member & Historic Preservation Liaison

Members

Absent:	Glorianne Robbi	Chair
---------	-----------------	-------

Alternates	Peter Fink	Alternate 2
------------	------------	-------------

Alternates

Absent:	Joan Sank	Alternate 1
---------	-----------	-------------

Liaisons

Present:	Kit Crisafulli (arrived 7:37pm)	Agricultural Advisory Committee Liaison
----------	---------------------------------	---

Liaisons

Absent:	Toni Robbi	Environmental Commission Liaison
---------	------------	----------------------------------

Others:	Christine Rosikiewicz	Secretary
---------	-----------------------	-----------

Others Absent:	Judy Conard	Administrator
----------------	-------------	---------------

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Ginman.

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH** the Open Public Meetings Act, Ms. Rosikiewicz noted that this is a regular meeting of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee pursuant to the meeting notice published in the January 31, 2013 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On February 4, 2013 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:**

There was no public present.

**MINUTES OF MEETING held January 14, 2013:**

**Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the January 14, 2013 meeting minutes; Ms. Cregar seconded it. All were in favor; the January 14, 2013 minutes were approved.**

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

**A motion was made Mr. Gardner to pay the bills as listed on the agenda, second by Ms. Cannelongo. All were in favor; the motion carried.**

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

**ACTIVE PROPERTIES UPDATE/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Ginman reported on the Administrator's report as follows:

- Scibilia: The property may close; this project has taken eleven years.
- Prosser: Steve Prosser applied directly to the CADB; this application is being processed.
- Plimpton: Ms. Conard is working with Green Acres..

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

GreenFest: Mr. Ginman went over organizations that were solicited and responses received. He provided the Committee with Hunterdon County trail maps which the committee reviewed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Review FOSPC 2013 capital and operating budget included in packet. Report from Dick Ginman on budget meeting with Township Committee on 2/7/13: Mr. Ginman reported that there is concern about the amount of debt. About half of debt service requirement for Open Space is funded from the general fund; the other is from open space tax. Mr. Gardner expressed that one of the reasons the percent is so high is that the rest of the budget numbers have been kept low by the properties FOSPC preserved. Mr. Gardner believes East Amwell has the lowest budget per assessed value of any township in the County and he believes the primary reason is that development was discouraged by land preservation.

Mr. Ginman said the second concern was whether an analysis of the amount of land being preserved. He noted that the FOSPC does not have a programmed amount of land to preserve every year but rather responds to opportunities when presented. He questioned if providing a ten year projection would be helpful. A study was done when FOSPC was first formed but it is now dated. It was discussed how a study would be funded and determined that it would need to be funded by the Planning Board and completed by the Planner. The Planner would need to know what questions are looking to be answered. A possible saturation point was discussed. Mr. Gardner expressed that when ten acre zoning was established one of the reasons it was justified was that the Township could provide another way for a landowner to establish value in their property other than development. The value of property was reduced by lowering the density but large plots of land are more attractive to buyers because of the open space around them.

Mr. Ginman asked Mr. Gardner to ask the Planning Board how much farmland should be preserved and if the Committee should be as aggressive as they have been. He explained that

Township Committee asked whether FOSPC should “tone back” acquisitions due to the debt being incurred.

Trail Application: Mr. Ginman reported that the trail application was turned down. None of the grants were awarded locally; Mr. Ginman went over some of the projects grants were awarded to and noted that they are “all worthy projects”.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- Historic Preservation: Ms. Cannelongo reported that the reorganization meeting was held in January. The Committee is waiting for feedback from the County Cultural Heritage regarding the letter from SPHO about Clawson House.
- Planning Board: Mr. Gardner reported that Planning Board has not met since the last FOSPC meeting.
- Agricultural Advisory: Mr. Crisafulli reported that the Committee discussed GreenFest.
- Recreation Committee: Ms. Rosikiewicz reported that the reorganization meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>. She has been in touch with Ms. Zengel regarding the proposed playing fields.

**REPORTS:**

News release listing successful Trail Grant Projects provided to FOSPC by Ms. Gavigan: Mr. Ginman reported that copies of the list are available.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Neshaminy Greenway Plans reach final stretch article from Bucks County Herald: Mr. Ginman commented very briefly on this article.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- NJ Conservation Foundation 2013 Land Rally will be on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at NJ Institute of Technology, 150 Bleeker St. in Newark.
- Township Committee Budget: Mr. Gardner commented that there are about 300 acres on the eastern border of Hunterdon County discussed from time to time for preservation. He said this is an example of how an annual budget with fixed limits could result in missed opportunities.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

There was no public present.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by motion of Mr. Gardner, second by Ms. Cregar and carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Christine Rosikiewicz, Secretary