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**EAST AMWELL FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PERSERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES: JANURARY 8, 2018
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NEW JERSEY**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Present:

Members: Richard Wolfe, Mayor's Designee
 Erica Johanson
 Fred Gardner, Alternate II

Absent: Peter Fick
 Joan Sank

Others Present: Kathy Wolfe

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 p.m. by Katherine Fullerton, FOSPC Administrator. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Katherine Fullerton stated that this was a regular meeting held pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 21, 2017, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On December 28, 2017 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

Changes to the Committee membership were noted. Two new members were welcomed to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee. Richard Wolfe is the new Mayor's Designee and Erica Johanson is a full member.

Katherine Fullerton asked for nominations for Chairperson. Mr. Gardner made a motion to nominate Mr. Fick, pending his acceptance of the nomination to this position. Ms. Johanson seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously, pending his acceptance of the nomination. Ms. Fullerton will confirm his acceptance.

Ms. Fullerton asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Wolfe motioned to nominate Ms. Johanson to the position. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner motioned to continue holding the committee's meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Fullerton asked for committee liaisons. It is anticipated that the following members will represent other committees: Recreation Committee – Peter Fick, Planning Board – Richard Wolfe, Township Committee – Richard Wolfe, Historic Preservation Committee – Barbara Sageser, and Agriculture Advisory – Candice Wiggim. The Environmental Commission is still finalizing members.

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting was open to the public for comments. A motion by Mr. Gardner and seconded by Mr. Wolfe was made to close to the public. All in favor.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of November 13, 2017 were unable to be approved as there is no quorum of prior members. The Administrator will confirm that prior members have reviewed the minutes and are fine with them, then put them in the record book as unapproved due to lack of quorum.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

There were no bills for approval, but Ms. Fullerton requested permission to attend the NJCF Open Space Rally, as in previous years. Ms. Johanson mentioned that she will be attending, but declined having the Township pay for her registration. Approval was granted to Ms. Fullerton to attend the NJCF Rally and have the payment come from the FOSPC budget.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Wertsville Industries Application Block 35 Lots 3 and 65

FOSPC went to the Township Committee meeting on December 28, 2017 requesting a Resolution of Support for NJCF's application to the County Open Space Advisory Committee. NJCF has had an opportunity to preserve property adjacent to Higgins within a quick timeframe. This was not a project confirmed prior to the November FOSPC meeting. NJCF will be attending the January 16 COSAC meeting. In past years, residential support has helped us get funding from the County. There would be no use of the Township Open Space Trust Fund money for the preservation of this property. It was recommended that all Township Committees be alerted to the County meeting so that we can fill the room with residents supporting the preservation effort.

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

The Administrator's report started with a review of the Open Space Trust Fund revenue and expenses. It was noted that the total spent in 2017 was \$626,617.53, which includes Clawson House improvements, the \$400,000 debt payment, and maintenance of the recreation fields. The Township has had \$486,923.58 in revenue for the Open Space Trust Fund this year.

It was noted that the Maresca/Martin farmland preservation received preliminary approval by the CADB.

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The Annual Report was sent to SADC regarding preservation efforts in 2017. This coming year, SADC will want digital reports, along with mapping, so there may be more of an effort and a review process of our prospective farms this summer.

The Higgins Phase II is moving along. NJCF has the funding from the NRD. They are still working on the legal documents with Mr. Higgins. NJCF is working on the survey.

D&R Greenway closed on the Lindburgh Road on December 20, 2017. The Van Doren property was approved for Farmland preservation at the December 7 SADC meeting.

The next County Staff meeting will be January 17 at 10am.

There were no reports from liaisons.

CORRESPONDENCE

A memo from SADC regarding non-profit grant applications was received by the FOSPC office in December. Information regarding the NJCF Rally will be emailed to Committee Members. The FOSPC office did receive an email regarding a webinar for using mapping software that is scheduled for February 2. That email will be distributed to FOSPC members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting was open to the public for comments. There was a motion by Mr. Gardner seconded by Mr. Wolfe, to close to the public. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be February 12, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gardner made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Wolfe to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary
_____ date _____