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**EAST AMWELL FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PERSERVATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES: JANURARY 14, 2019  
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  
                              Peter Fick  
                              Paul Sterchele – Historic Preservation Liaison

Absent:                   Tom Jarick

Others Present:         None

The meeting was called to order at 7:33p.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 20, 2018, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On January 3, 2019 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.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The new liaison from Historic Preservation, Paul Sterchele, was introduced.

**REORGANIZATION**

Katherine Fullerton asked for nominations for Chairperson. Mr. Wolfe nominated Mr. Fick for Chair. There were no other nominations. Mr. Gardner seconded this nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Fullerton asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Wolfe nominated Ms. Johanson for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Mr. Gardner seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner made a motion 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 – Paul Sterchele. The Agriculture Advisory Committee and the Environmental Commission need to reorganize before they can determine their liaisons. It was noted that Erica Johanson will participate as the volunteer web coordinator. Ms. Fullerton monitors the FOSPC website as the FOSPC administrator.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The meeting was open to the public for comments. There was no public.

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## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

A motion to approve the November 12 minutes was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Fick. Mr. Gardner abstained as he had not attended the November 12 meeting. The minutes were approved.

## **BILLS FOR APPROVAL**

There were no bills for approval, but Ms. Fullerton requested permission to attend the NJCF Open Space Rally April 12, as in previous years. 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 was an email from Mr. Fick that was discussed. It needs to be determined if the person reflected in the email is a resident. Mr. Fullerton will follow up on this email. In the future, there will be a Community section to the Township website where this would be appropriate.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. Potential Farmland Preservation

Mr. Wolfe has been in continued conversation with the property owners he has reached out to. He wants to reach out to funding sources for Farmland Preservation.

It was noted that Green Acres has opened an Open Space funding round. Applications are due March 31. NJCF has a funding gap for the Wertsville Industries property, so they would appreciate East Amwell making an application to Green Acres for this funding gap. Mr. Wolfe was going to follow up with Lisa MacCollum regarding the funding gap.

### 2. Open Space Improvement and Maintenance Plan

Ms. Fullerton is waiting for the Parks and Recreation Committee to provide aspirational goals for the Improvement and Maintenance Plan. Once this Plan is approved, County funds can be used for the improvement and maintenance of Clawson Park.

There was a question about funding sources, so Ms. Fullerton was going to confirm the State funds available to the Township for the tennis courts at Clawson Park, as well as the County funds available.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. Property Management Plan for NJCF

Mike Van Clef is working with NJCF to finalize the survey to be sent to local residents and other stakeholders. Once the survey is complete, it will be posted on the Township website and available through other means. Mr. Van Clef will create a plan for the Higgins and the Wertsville Industries properties indicating preferred recreational uses for the property.

There was a further question about the farmer with the hay bales. NJCF has not been able to get the farmer to move the hay bales, but Ms. Fullerton will contact NJCF again.

### 2. County Open Space Strategic Plan

This was discussed as part of the funding sources for the Improvement and Management Plan.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Administrator's Report**

The Township CFO had requested that FOSPC lower its budget as there is a revenue short fall this year. The CFO was suggesting that the annual FOSPC budget should be \$750. The annual letter will

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not be sent out anymore, as residents will be directed to the new website for information. That will save a few hundred dollars from the FOSPC budget. It was noted that the committee has not been in the habit of reviewing the annual budget. Ms. Fullerton offered to get the budget information from the CFO and present it to the Committee. The Township Committee will be voting on the budget closer to April.

The February FOSPC meeting will be held in conjunction with the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the State and County to discuss Farmland preservation efforts. This appears to be a follow up from the April meeting with SADC.

The Open Space Trust Fund accounting looks the same as the end of last year. The Township spent \$396,134.78 and had \$323,039.51 in revenue. The Martin/Maresca preservation will receive final approval from the State on January 24. The Property Management Agreement has been postponed until the Township Committee is less busy. There is no rush with this. The Green Acres application needs to come to the Township Committee in February as well. The Annual Application/Report to SADC for funding was submitted November 27, 2018. The surveyors have not finished the survey needed for Higgins Phase II and the agriculture subdivision, but it is hoped that NJCF will submit a subdivision application to the Planning Board soon.

It was noted that the Township Committee has introduced and passed an ordinance prohibiting commercial solar fields on non-preserved farmland. This does not prevent individual owners from installing solar panels for their personal use.

The Historic Preservation Committee is working on working on cleaning up the historical possessions stored in the municipal building basement and re-storing them at the Clawson House.

The Parks and Recreation Committee had a very nice tree lighting ceremony in early December. The bus trip to Manhattan was successful.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be February 11, 2019.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Wolfe made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gardner to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Recording Secretary  
\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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