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

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Present:

Members: Pete Fick, Chair, liaison Recreation Committee
Richard Wolfe, Mayor's Designee, liaison Planning Board
Tom Rue, Liaison Environmental Commission
Tom Jarick

Absent:

Joan Sank
Erica Johanson, Vice Chair
Fred Gardner, alternate 2
Candice Wiggum, Liaison Agricultural Advisory Committee
Barbara Sageser, Liaison Historic Preservation Committee

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Fick. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was stated that this was a regular meeting held pursuant to the meeting notice published in the January 11, 2018 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On September 27, 2018 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

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

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

A motion to approve the regular minutes from the September 10 meeting was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Jarick. The minutes were approved. A motion to approve the Executive Session minutes from the September 10 meeting was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Jarick. The minutes were approved.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

1. Potential Farmland Preservation

There was no new information for farmland preservation efforts.

2. Open Space Improvement and Maintenance Plan

There were no comments on the Improvement and Maintenance Plan. It would be good to have comments from the Parks and Recreation Committee. It was on the agenda for last month, so

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hopefully there can be a discussion at their next meeting. Mr. Fick made a note to discuss it at the Parks and Recreation meeting. Mr. Wolfe will review the document more thoroughly. It is hoped to deliver the Plan to the County mid-December. There is no deadline for the Improvement and Maintenance Plan to be delivered to the County.

3. County Strategic Recreation and Open Space Plan

There were no comments on this by Committee members. It was noted that improvements to the South County Park is park is included. It is a thorough plan; built around a rural setting. This is another document that the Parks and Recreation Committee should review, as it may impact them as well as FOSPC.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Property Management Agreement with Hunterdon County

Administrator Fullerton explained that back in the spring Bill Millette from the County asked if the Township would be interested in having the County manage two properties that are adjacent to a County property in the Sourlands.

The properties in question are Block 38 lots 42 and 42.01, which are off Ridge and Lindbergh roads. Committee members were interested in what the County wants to do with these properties. It was noted that the County property is listed as the Sourland Preserve. Mr. Wolfe requested to take some time to review the draft agreement and to check to see if the Sourland Preserve has any concern regarding this agreement. Maintenance and management means mowing or maintaining trails, making sure that the properties do not have trespassers on it.

Mr. Fick expressed an interest in discussing this with the County staff next week.

2. Update on new Township Website

The new Township Website will be launched on October 25. There will be a launch party the evening of the 25, open to all Township residents. There will be a presentation of the website in the big room, starting at 7pm. The party starts at 6:30. The administrators will be trained at a separate event.

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

The final taxes for the year have been paid. \$271,183.48 has been added to the Open Space Trust Fund. This is up slightly from past years. The total amount spent this past year was \$393,401.87. This includes the annual debt payment. It is hoped that the Clawson House will become self-sustaining soon. Clawson house is anticipating receiving grants, which will be put into the Open Space Trust Fund. There was some extra income from other sources, which brought the annual revenue up to \$321,372.34. Mr. Fick and Ms. Fullerton met with the County farmland staff on September 19. Since East Amwell is working on farmland preservation, we had a limited conversation. Bill Millette had a meeting, so we were able to speak with him about the Strategic Open Space Plan for only a minute. SADC approved the 2019 administrative budgets at their meeting on September 27. They are starting up a pilot program in Warren County where the County Soil Conservation staff will be monitoring preserved farmland. Hunterdon County does not have a dedicated staff member to monitor preserved farms. If this State program works, hopefully the Township's preserved farmland will be well monitored going forward. The

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Township is waiting for NJCF to file the application for an agriculture subdivision for the Higgins property. There is no application on the agenda for the October Planning Board meeting.

Environmental Commission and Recycling Committee:

The depot this past Saturday was busy. 80 people came and filled both dumpsters. The Trex project is going well. It is on the agenda for tomorrow's Recycling Committee meeting to discuss the future of collecting extra plastic.

The Environmental Commission discovered that ANJAC will provide grants and resources to Environmental Commissions to upgrade the Environmental Resource Inventory. East Amwell's ERI has not been updated since 1974, so it is time to update it. The Environmental Commission has been discussing their review of Site Plans for new construction projects.

Recreation and Parks Committee:

The Recreation Committee will be doing the annual Christmas Tree lighting. They are considering possible new activities throughout the whole year. The tree lighting will be on Saturday December 1.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were two memos from SADC and a Partner Update. In the Partner Update, the sessions for the annual reporting for farmland preservation were announced. These sessions teach administrators how to use the new digital program to report farmland updates annually. Ms. Fullerton noted that she will be attending the October 29 session. The two memos from Mr. Everett are on the Rural Microenterprise legislation and revisions on the Soil and Water Conservation program. The actual policy changes are available via email as needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be November 12, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wolfe made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Jarick to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary
_____ date _____

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