

MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
December 9, 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 7:32 PM by Vice Chair Dick Ginman. Recording Secretary Scott Bauman read aloud the following: *“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	X
Patricia Cregar	FOSPC Mayor’s Designee: 12/31/13	X	X			X		X				n/a
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	X
Fred Gardner	FOSPC: 12/31/15 & Planning Board Liaison: 12/31/13	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	X
Joan Sank	FOSPC Alt. I: 12/31/13	X		X	X	X			X		X	X

Others present on 12/9/13: Committeeman David Wang-Iverson, and FOSPC Administrator / Recording Secretary Scott Bauman

Open to the Public

Chairwoman Robbi 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 comments from the public. Chairwoman Robbi made a motion to close the meeting to the public; Ms. Cannelongo seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of November 11, 2013, Meeting Minutes

Chairwoman Robbi made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as submitted; Ms. Sank seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Bills

Ms. Cannelongo made a motion to approve payment of FOSPC Administrator Scott Bauman in the amount of \$385.00 for 19.25 hours of work for November, 2013. Mr. Fick seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Additions to the Agenda

Chairwoman Robbi requested that two items be added to the agenda: 1) approval of the submission of an application to the county for the purchase of development rights on a property located on Old York Road; and 2) recommendation that the Township Committee approve a resolution to bank and reserve the 2012 municipal allocation of the county open space trust fund in the amount of \$23,770.88. Vice Chairman Ginman requested that the Committee prepare a letter to the Home Depot for the Mayor’s signature thanking them for providing the township with a discount on the purchase of materials and hardware for a

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small pedestrian bridge that was constructed for a trail in the Rocktown Woods Preserve. Mr. Bauman agreed to prepare the letter.

FOSPC Administrator's Report

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

Mr. Bauman reminded the Committee that in October the SADC made an easement acquisition offer to the owners. To date it is not known if the property owners have responded to the offer. There is a time limit to reply to the SADC's offer. Chairwoman Robbi added that former FOSPC Administrator Judy Conard has contacted the property owners to assist them since she was involved with this application prior to her retirement.

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

Background: In May 2013, the SADC approved the \$361,200 development easement grant application (60% SADC, 20% county, 20% municipal contributions) and the Township Committee approved it via resolution #64-13. The property owner has signed the contract and returned it to the Freeholders. The application is expected to be closed by early 2014. Mr. Bauman informed the Committee that the Township Committee recently approved a resolution approving Heritage Consulting Engineers for surveying services not to exceed \$3,750; he is now in the process of obtaining a services contract from the surveyor.

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

Background: Funding will be provided through D&R Greenway Land Trust, county cooperative grant, municipal share of county open space funds, and municipal open space funds. The residence will be subdivided. Title to the open land will be transferred to D&R Greenway Land Trust, Green Acres, or the County. In June 2013, the Green Acres certified market value was \$131,000.

Vice Chairman Ginman informed the Committee that the contract is now with the Plimpton's attorney but we should not expect any action on it until January 2014. This parcel is adjacent to a county park; the township and D&R assembled the project for the county.

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

A Non Profit Open Space Grant application was submitted in July 2013 to Hunterdon County and approved by the Hunterdon County Freeholders in October, 2013. Green Acres funds will support 50% of the certified appraisal. Vice Chairman Ginman said at this date one of the property owners (Pearson) is on board.

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

Vice Chairman Ginman reported that the project is complicated by the structures to be removed by the owner. D&R is negotiating with the owner.

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

Committeeman Wang-Iverson said that township attorney Dick Cushing was working on a mowing easement agreement. Assuming the language can be made agreeable, the owner is ok with the township mowing the field if he doesn't do it. The county has to approve of the wording as well.

MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
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7. Block 40.03, Lots 16.01 & 16.02; 252 Rileyville Road.

Vice Chairman Ginman said this is a D&R targeted property and asked Mr. Bauman to follow up with D&R to see if they and the owner have communicated.

8. Resolution to Bank and Reserve the 2012 Municipal Allocation of Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Funds in the amount of \$23,770.88

The resolution states that the township contributed \$237,708.81 to the Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland Preservation and Historic Trust Fund in FY 2012, and that the township requests that the 10% municipal allocation for 2012 be banked and reserved for future open space projects.

9. Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (Easement Purchase Application) to Hunterdon County for Block 17, Lot 16 on Old York Road (100.86 acres)

Chairwoman Robbi reported that Alix Bacon of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) contacted the township about the preservation of a 100 acre property on Old York Road. Vice Chairman Ginman explained to the Committee that properties on either side of the subject site is preserved, there is a JCPL easement through the property that is not being used, part of the property is in a federal farmland program, and the southern part of the parcel has a stream running through it. The property's owner expressed interest in preservation a number of years ago but his plan was not accepted by the SADC. NJCF is in contact with the owner and the township.

Old Business

1. 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.

2. Hermine Van Doren, Block 35, Lot 53; South Hill Road; 7.51 acres

Vice Chairman Ginman said there is no update.

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

Vice Chairman Ginman reported that the owner has applied directly to Green Acres.

New Business

1. 2014 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Bauman provided the members with a list of the 2014 meeting dates- there are no conflicts with holidays; the Committee should be prepared to adopt a 2014 meeting calendar at the January meeting.

2. Planning for 2014 FOSPC Budget

Mr. Bauman reminded the Committee that last month they agreed to recommend the increase of the Administration Expenses line item from \$1,250 to \$1,500.

3. 2014 GreenFest: April 5, 2014

Chairwoman Robbi said an article was in the December VIP and a follow-up will be in the January issue.

Liaison Report: David Harding- Historic Preservation Committee

Mr. Harding was not present to provide a report.

MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
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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. Mr. Bauman is also the recording secretary to the Agricultural Advisory Committee; he provided those present with a brief synopsis of his meeting minutes he prepared at their December 2 meeting.

Liaison Report: Toni Robbi- Environmental Commission

Mr. Robbi reported that the Rocktown Woods Preserve 2.1 mile trail project is moving along. December and January are traditionally the toughest time to get people out to volunteer. The official trail opening is scheduled for May 17, 2014.

Liaison Report: Peter Fick- Recreation Committee

Mr. Fick reported that the Recreation Committee has 7 members, of whom four (4) members were present for the tree lighting event. Mr. Fick reported no new news regarding the proposed South County Park. The Recreation Committee is planning on participating in the 2014 Greenfest event in April. Kevin Inglin of South County Soccer attended the November meeting and discussed the condition of the soccer fields and working together on maintaining the fields in the future.

Reports

Mr. Bauman reported that he along with Chairwoman Robbi and Vice Chairman Ginman attended a meeting with CADB staff on November 20, 2013 to discuss ongoing grant applications that are in the FOSPC Administrator's Report.

Adjournment

A motion by Ms. Cannelongo, seconded by Mr. Fick to adjourn was unanimously approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2014, at 7:30 PM in the East Amwell Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ **Scott Bauman**

Scott Bauman, Recording Secretary
January 7, 2014

MOTION TO APPROVE: Pete Fick

MOTION SECONDED BY: Dick Ginman

APPROVED: January 13, 2014

ABSTENTIONS: Fred Gardner, Committeeman David Wang-Iverson