

**MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 10, 2014
EAST AMWELL FARMLAND / OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the Farmland / Open Space Preservation Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairwoman Robbi. Mr. Bauman read aloud the following: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is a Reorganization Meeting pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 19, 2013 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. 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 municipal bulletin board.

2014 ATTENDANCE

	1/13/14	2/10/14	3/10/14	4/14/14	5/12/14	6/9/14	7/14/14	8/11/14	9/8/14	10/13/14	11/10/14	12/8/14
Kat Cannelongo		X										
Pete Fick (Alternate II & Recreation Committee liaison)	X	X										
Fred Gardner (member & Planning Board liaison)	X	X										
Frances Gavigan (Agricultural Advisory Committee liaison)		X										
Dick Ginman	X	X										
Glorianne Robbi	X	X										
Toni Robbi (Environmental Commission liaison)	X	X										
Barbara Sageser (Historic Preservation Committee liaison)												
Joan Sank (Alternate I)		X										
David Wang-Iverson (Mayor's designee)	X	X										

Others present on 2/10/14: FOSPC Administrator / Recording Secretary Scott Bauman

Chairwoman Robbi welcomed Ms. Gavigan as Agricultural Advisory Committee liaison.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to open the meeting to the public; Ms. Cannelongo seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by voice vote. Chairwoman Robbi noted that there were no members of the public present. Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gardner, and unanimously approved by all to close the public portion of the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Fick made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Ginman, to approve the January 13, 2014, meeting minutes as submitted; the motion was approved with abstentions by Ms. Cannelongo, and Ms. Sank.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to approve payment of FOSPC Administrator Scott Bauman for \$430.00 for 21.5 hours of work in the month of January, 2014. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2014 Greenfest. Chairwoman Robbi distributed a list of Greenfest 2014 invitees; she reported that we are getting responses back. Ms. Cannelongo said the Historical Society will participate. The Committee discussed the participant list and other planning matters related to the April 5, 2014, event. Chairwoman Robbi added that a guided hike through the Rocktown Woods Preserve will be take place on April 6.

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Review of Chapter 26: Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee. Chairwoman Robbi distributed copies of the form used for ranking farms in the PIG program. After discussion, Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to send the criteria to the Township Committee with a note stating that FOSPC looked over the criteria, saw no reason to change it, and if there are concerns they should contact us. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Robbi opened the motion for discussion. Ms. Sank asked why having a conservation plan on file with the Soil Conservation District is considered only a non-quantifiable consideration. Chairwoman Robbi responded that it used to be a quantifiable consideration but was taken off since the plans are not made public- the NCS can state, however whether one is on file or not.

With no further discussion, all voted in favor of the motion, none opposed.

Review of Chapter 27: Open Space Trust Fund. The Committee discussed the six different purposes for acquisition that are described in the ordinance. It was recognized that the trust fund can be used for acquisition and maintenance of properties for recreation, conservation, farmland preservation, and historic preservation purposes, as well as payment of debt service.

Administrator's Report. Mr. Bauman provided the Committee with updates on municipal PIG applications Greg & Dena Scibilia (Block 11, Lot 37), and Barbara Hay (Block 21, Lot 16.03); SADC application Perkovich (Block 3, Lots 5, 6); and Green Acres applications Plimpton Estate (Block 38, Lot 3), and Ridge Road assemblage (Block 32, Lots 18, 19, 19.01, 21.01, 21.02).

Preparation of 2014 Capital Budget Request. Those present discussed draft capital budget requests for farmland and open space preservation projects; after discussion, Mr. Bauman said he would revise the draft in time for the March meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

Agricultural Advisory Committee. Ms. Gavigan reported of a potential farmland preservation candidate.

Environmental Commission. Mr. Robbi reported that Sean Grace is the Chairman for 2014.

Historic Preservation Committee. No report.

Planning Board. Mr. Gardner reported that the Ringoes Study Group held its first meeting. The goal is to effectively get residents and business owners involved in coming up with a plan; the township planner will be involved with the project as well.

Recreation Committee. Mr. Fick reported that he received the Greenfest letter and the Recreation Committee will be participating. The Recreation Committee is organizing an Easter egg hunt this year. The Committee awaits another new member pending Township Committee's approval. Discussions with South County Soccer are ongoing. There is a need for standard operating procedures for the recreation activities conducted by the Township. Mr. Fick reported no new news on the proposed South County Park.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Vice Chairman Ginman distributed a letter to the editor from the February 6, 2014, Hunterdon Democrat titled "Wolf is at the Door"; the letter addressed Clinton Township's affordable housing obligation.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Robbi noted there were no members of the public present; Mr. Gardner made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Ginman, and approved by all to close the public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gardner, and unanimously approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Scott Bauman

Scott Bauman, Recording Secretary
February 10, 2014

APPROVED BY FARMLAND / OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE 3/10/2014