

**MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 14, 2014**  
**EAST AMWELL FARMLAND / OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**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 7:35 PM by Chairwoman Robbi. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Mr. Bauman stated that this is a regular 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
<b>Kat Cannelongo</b>		X	X									
<b>Fred Gardner (member &amp; Planning Board liaison)</b>	X	X	X									
<b>Dick Ginman</b>	X	X	X	X								
<b>Glorianne Robbi</b>	X	X	X	X								
<b>Joan Sank (alternate I)</b>		X	X	X								
<b>Pete Fick (alternate II &amp; Recreation Committee liaison)</b>	X	X	X	X								
<b>Committeeman David Wang-Iverson (mayor's designee)</b>	X	X		X								
<b>Frances Gavigan (Agricultural Advisory Committee liaison)</b>		X	X									
<b>Toni Robbi (Environmental Commission liaison)</b>	X	X	X	X								
<b>Barbara Sageser (Historic Preservation Committee liaison)</b>			X	X								

*Others present on 4/14/14: FOSPC Administrator / Recording Secretary Scott Bauman*

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Vice Chairman Ginman opened the meeting to the public, seconded by Committeeman Wang-Iverson. There was no public present; Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Committeeman Wang-Iverson.

**PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sank to approve the March 10, 2014, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote; Committeeman Wang-Iverson abstained from voting.

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS**

Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion to approve payment of FOSPC Administrator Scott Bauman for \$340.00 for 17 hours of work in March, 2014, and Glorianne Robbi for \$25.86 for Greenfest supplies. Committeeman Wang-Iverson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

1. Chairwoman Robbi attended New Jersey Conservation Foundation's annual land rally on March 22 and would like to report on it. With no objections, this was added to Unfinished Business.
2. Vice Chairman Ginman would like to report on the preservation discussions involving Block 40, Lot 17.01, and the Black River Western Trail- Ringoes to Lambertville; with no objections, these were added to Unfinished Business.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2014 Capital Budget Request. Committeeman Wang-Iverson reported that there is no CFO at this time; candidates are being interviewed this week. There is a temporary municipal budget through June. Chairwoman Robbi told Committeeman Wang-Iverson that the 2013 funds may be insufficient for 2014; she asked that he keep FOSPC informed. Committeeman Wang-Iverson said he sees no problem with FOSPC putting their 2014 requests together in draft form but the township is in no position at this time to vote on it.

Farmland Preservation Application Block 17, Lot 16- Old York Road, 100 acres. Vice Chairman Ginman reported that he and Chairwoman Robbi met last week with Hunterdon County planning staff, and representatives of the owner, the Hunterdon Land Trust, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and the SADC. There was discussion over whether the farmland parcel will meet all of the minimum requirements, and potential preservation plan layouts. Any preservation plan involving a subdivision would have to go to the Planning Board. There was discussion over preservation funding formulas between the municipal PIG program, county funds, and municipal funds.

Greenfest Review. Chairwoman Robbi reported 24 exhibitors attended. The school was great- staff set up the tables, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Club decorated; the school was an extremely helpful and great host. Thank you notes are being sent; we requested feedback from exhibitors- some have already told us that they had a good time, they were able to network, and may have recruited some volunteers. The Hunterdon Hoppers bunny rabbits were a hit, and so were the videos that were shown. The whole event cost \$25.86, the art design for the invitations was donated, Shop Rite donated the refreshments.

Hunterdon Land Trust. Chairwoman Robbi reported that the donation to the Trust is under discussion; she is going to prepare a memo outlining the \$140,000 in preservation funds they have found for us.

Open Space Preservation Block 40, Lot 17.01, 4 acres. Vice Chairman Ginman reported that the State is interested in purchasing this property- it is adjacent to State property, and D&R Greenway is the agent working for the State.

Black River Western Trail- Ringoes to Lambertville. Vice Chairman Ginman reported that he was recently asked about this idea; unfortunately Green Acres has no funding source to spend on programs at this time. No one is sure if the property owner is willing to sell, and the project would involve several towns- perhaps a county initiative is needed. A discussion ensued over possible funding sources.

March 22, 2014 New Jersey Conservation Foundation Land Rally. Chairwoman Robbi reported that she and Mr. Robbi attended NJCF's annual New Jersey Land Rally held at Rutgers University's Piscataway campus. SADC Executive Director Susan Payne, speaker at one of the workshops attended, noted major changes in the Federal Ranchland and Farm funding program and the need to spend any banked SADC preservation funds - use it or lose it. Ms. Payne also summarized SADC's pending litigation, and bill A1272/S837 "Agricultural Tourism Activities and Events" The State's annual farmland monitoring process was reviewed by its coordinator.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Administrator's Report. Mr. Bauman provided the Committee with his April 14, 2014, report as part of the meeting packet. Mr. Bauman updated members on municipal PIG applications Greg & Dena Scibilia

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(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).

Vice Chairman Ginman reported no update on the status of the MOA between the township and the DEP regarding the Stony Brook Trail "Rambling Pines", Block 41, Lots 44 and 45. Vice Chairman Ginman reported that the Omick Woods at Rocktown sign has been selected and ordered.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC). No report.

Environmental Commission (EC). Mr. Robbi reported that the EC is preparing a report to the Zoning Board concerning a use variance application for the New Market Farm on Linvale Road. The trail at Rocktown is nearing completion; construction will be finalized this Sunday. A hike is scheduled for May 17.

Planning Board (PB). No report.

Recreation Committee (RC). Mr. Fick reported that the Easter Egg Hunt went well thanks to the volunteers who were involved. The RC is waiting for specifications from South County Soccer to determine what they want in field upgrades. South County Soccer is going to pay for crabgrass treatment and fertilizer. Mr. Fick reported that they are working to meet in May with the county engineer to discuss the proposed South County Park.

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC). Ms. Sageser reported that the HPC has a new member- Ringoes resident Susanne Koeniger. She is interested in photographs and hopefully she can help work on organizing and preserving the Quick Collection photographs. The Clawson House drawing and specifications are going through the vetting process- being overseen by the Township Administrator and Attorney. The HPC had a booth at Greenfest managed by Paul Sterchele.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairman Ginman made a motion, seconded by Committeeman Wang-Iverson, and unanimously approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Scott Bauman

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Scott Bauman, Recording Secretary  
May 1, 2014

**Approved by the Farmland / Open Space Preservation Committee on May 12, 2014**