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**EAST AMWELL FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PERSERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 12, 2016
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NEW JERSEY**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Chair Glorianne Robbi called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Members: Glorianne Robbi, Chair
 Tim Martin, Vice Chair
 David Wang-Iverson
 Joan Sank
 Pete Fick, alternate 1
 Fred Gardner, alternate 2

Liaisons: Barbara Sageser, Historic Preservation
 Candice Wiggum, Agricultural Advisory
 Dee Kellogg, Environmental Commission

Absent: Kat Cannelongo

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chair Glorianne Robbi called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Katherine Fullerton noted that this is regular meeting pursuant to the meeting notice published in the January 21, 2016 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On September 1, 2016 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Higgins Update

Lisa MacCollum from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation presented an update on Phase 1 of the Higgins acquisition. The NJCF exercised the option to purchase in mid-June with Mr. Higgins. The environmental report is due this week. The survey is due later in the month. The title report has been done. Ms. MacCollum continued with a presentation on Phase 2 of the Higgins acquisition. The total area is 270 acres. NJCF and Hunterdon Land Trust are working together to complete this phase. They have submitted grant applications to the Hunterdon County Open Space Advisory Committee for 20% of \$16,000 per acre, which is more than Hunterdon County has to spend in this funding cycle. NJCF and HLT expect the Township to apply for a cooperative grant from the County in January. Due to pollution within the watershed, there is potential funding through the State remediation process. It is anticipated that Phase 2 would close in late 2017. NJCF requested that FOSPC submit a letter of support to the County for grant application. A motion was made to send a letter by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Martin. The committee agreed unanimously.

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2. Review of Open Space Funding 2005-2015

Mr. Martin reviewed the open space funding over the 2005-2015 time frame. Township money from the Open Space Trust Fund accounts for only 6% of the total cost of preservation for public access open space. The rest comes from State, County, and other funding. Preserved farmland accounts for 95% of acres and cost to the Township. The Township has spent approximately \$5 million on farmland preservation and barely \$250,000 on public access open space. This presentation will be made at other committees.

3. Update on Referendum

In June, there was a question of a potential referendum question regarding the Open Space Trust Fund. Mr. Wang-Iverson reviewed the history of the referendum approved in 1998 and the ordinance written in 1999 and the discrepancy between the two. In July, the Township Committee limited spending from the Open Space Trust Fund to only farmland and debt. A copy of the resolution creating the referendum for this fall was distributed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The meeting was open to the public for comments. A motion by Ms. Wiggum was made to close to the public. All in favor.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of June 13, 2016 were approved on a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

There were no bills.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

No Additions

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of potential farmland preservation

Mr. Martin discussed a meeting with the landowner of a targeted property. The State was included and it went well. Through this meeting, the SADC is aware that we have the potential for a PIG application, so any threat to our unused SADC funding should be postponed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bill Rawlyk, Open Space Institute

Mr. Rawlyk had expressed interest in presenting at our meeting, but he was unable to attend.

2. SADC Right-to-Farm

The SADC has sent out a number of materials on the Right-to-Farm and their mediation program. They have been passed along to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

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3. League of Municipalities Meeting November 15-17, 2016 in Atlantic City

The League of Municipalities requested ordinances to be discussed at the annual conference. FOSPC had none to offer at this time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Fullerton reported on activities at the County and State level, as well as a few other property owners offering their property for preservation. Ms. Fullerton has been busy with the accounting of the Open Space Trust Fund.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements, other than the meetings dates as part of the Administrator's report. The next meeting with the County will be next Wednesday, September 21 at 11am. The topic will be monitoring preserved farms.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was a motion by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson to open the meeting to the public for comments. There was a motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Martin, to close to the public. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be October 10, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wang-Iverson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Fick to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine Fullerton

Recording Secretary
date_____