

Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, March 20, 2007

1. **Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.** At 7:30 a quorum was present and Vice Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law.
2. **Introductions/roll call.** Present were members Connolly, LaCorte, Chase, Orsini, Thomas, Clyde, Triggs and Battin. Noted in the minutes is that Jones, Kanarek and Consultant Loos arrived later. Clyde had to leave early, as noted in the minutes.
3. **Approval of the February 20, 2007 minutes.** A motion to approve the February 20, 2007 minutes carried.
4. **Opening of the meeting to the public.** A motion to open the meeting to the public carried. No public requested to speak so a motion carried to close the meeting to the public.
5. **Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) presentation.** John Clyde, Chair of the TAC presented a draft plan for a pathways and trails plan and solicited feedback. He announced that there will be a public hearing on the plan in June. Near the end of this presentation, Jones and Loos arrived and advised the committee that they had just come from a meeting with the Finance Oversight committee of the Council.
6. **Financial Report.** Loos reported that there is \$25,425,704.17 in the open space trust fund. Orsini moved and Clyde seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.
7. **Consultants report.** Consultant Loos handed out a memo describing projects on which he worked in the last month (attached). He also advised the committee that it needs to recommend to the Township a property for which the Township should apply for the Somerset County Municipal Partnership Program. Loos recommended that the former Kumar property, now known as the Scalzone Natural Area, located on Westpoint Avenue, be the property that Township applies for. Clyde then moved and Battin seconded a motion to so recommend the Scalzone property to the Township. Motion carried, with Triggs abstaining as, being new to the committee, he was not familiar with the property.
8. **Old Business--Naming the Westpoint Avenue open space property.** The committee reviewed the attached Resolution, "Regarding Naming the Westpoint Avenue Natural Area as The John Scalzone Natural Area" and after listening to a brief presentation by John Scalzone's brother, Joe Scalzone, adopted the Resolution upon a motion by Clyde that was seconded by Battin.
9. **Old Business--Shade Tree Commission funding.** Loos advised the committee that he discussed this matter with Ken Daly and was advised that if the OSAC wants to fund shade trees on township land, it can include such an item in the next fiscal year budget recommendation.
10. **New Business-Civil Solutions Contract.** Loos advised that Civil Solutions had been working closely with the OSAC and TAC programs

and had run out of money in their existing open space contract. Much more mapping and GIS work continues to be needed. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to recommend to the Council that Civil Solutions be awarded an additional \$10,000 for open space-related mapping and GIS work. Motion carried. At this point, Clyde left the meeting.

11. New Business—Historic grant. Loos advised the committee that the 2007 historic grant program had been advertised in the Courier News and posted on the Township website. Also, notices were mailed to three historic churches and the Meadows Foundation. The deadline to apply was March 1, 2007. Applications were received from the Kingston United Methodist Church, the Kingston Presbyterian Church, and the Meadows Foundation. The committee decided to review the applications, beginning at the next OSAC meeting in April.

12. Review of hunting statistics for the 2006-07 season. The committee reviewed statistics, as follows:

There were a total of 110 deer taken off of open space property in the 2006-07 hunting season. This compares to 101 deer taken in the 2005-06 hunting season. Following is a summary of the white-tailed deer wildlife control program for these past two seasons:

Negri Nepote Native Grassland Preserve

2005-06

- 96 full-days open to hunting (closed 11/1-11/20 for fall foliage season)
- 195 hunter-days
- 27 does
- 4 bucks

2006-07

- 130 afternoons open to hunting
- 191 hunter-days
- 20 does
- 2 bucks

Ten Mile Run Greenway

2005-06

- 96 full-days open to hunting (closed 11/1-11/20 for fall foliage season)
- 481 hunter-days
- 62 does
- 6 bucks

2006-07

- 129 full days open to hunting
- 614 hunter-days
- 73 does
- 15 bucks

OSAC committee members then made recommendations for the upcoming hunting season:

- Have a sign in sheet at each property.
- Have hunters volunteer to clean up property, or some other volunteer work;
- Increase the number of permits in Ten Mile Run Greenway;
- Make Bunker Hill Natural Area and Cedar Grove Lane Natural Areas bow only;
- Have fewer days of hunting—especially during Fall Foliage season;
- Make Ten Mile Run ½ days, similar to the way the Negri Nepote was this year;
- Look at other open space properties that could be added;
- Check with Montgomery Township to see what their program is and invite their coordinator to attend the next OSAC meeting;
- That be one day every other week when there is no hunting in order to give staff a day to safely go onto the property for maintenance.

These recommendations were not acted upon, but rather were done in a brainstorming session. Loos will bring a revised hunting program to the April meeting that incorporates these into the program and OSAC will review and make decisions at that meeting.

13. New Business—Review of a draft plan to develop the Catalpa property. The committee reviewed a Schoor DePalma produced plan and after reviewing it, Orsini moved and Thomas seconded a motion, that carried, to ask that the plan be amended as follows:

- a. Shift the access road to the cricket field area to utilize the existing road and move the pedestrian trail into the forest;
- b. Eliminate the skate park;
- c. Move the basketball court to where the skate park was proposed to be;
- d. Add another soccer field to where the proposed basketball court was to be.

14. New Business—sign on roads where hiking trails meet the road. The committee reviewed a draft sign and approved it, but suggested that the wording be changed to say, :Franklin Township Hiking Trails.” Loos was asked to identify how many would be needed and to get a price top produce them as made as wooden (or composite), two-sided signs, similar in size to the open space signs.

15. Second opening of the meeting to the public. Connolly moved and Orsini seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried. At this time, Kanarek arrived.

- Lloyd Pietrak, 20 Mosher Road, said that he thinks that biking on S. Middlebush Road is a good idea; that the Township should consider creating a webpage similar to the East Brunswick Nature Notes webpage; that the wildlife control program for the upcoming season needs early approval; and that the day off for staff access during hunting season should be the same each week—for example on Wednesdays—and not Fridays. the Shade Tree Commission. He suggested that there should be better definition for this project.

- Charlotte Fuller, 20 Mosher Road said that she strongly supports bike trails for commuting purposes; that there is a deer enclosure experiment at Hutcheonson Forest; and that closing the properties to hunting for 129 days out of 365 is not excessive.

LaCorte moved and Connolly seconded a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

16. Executive Session. Around 10:15, upon a motion by Connolly, seconded by LaCorte, a motion carried to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations and possible purchase of property. At 10:35 the committee came out of Executive Session.

17. Adjournment. At 10:35 PM the committee came out of Executive Session and upon a motion that carried by Orsini, seconded by Connolly, the OSAC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant

Loos Consulting

Strategy, management, advocacy and communication



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To: OSAC
From: John Loos
Date: March 20, 2007

RE: Consultants Monthly report

During the period from February 21 to March 20, 2007, I worked on the following projects:

1. Open space inventory & mapping
2. Lot next to Higgins House
3. Updating website
4. Riya farm preservation
5. Ten Mile run pedestrian bridge
6. Madden farm preservation
7. Catalpa park development
8. Temmer preservation
9. Eagle Scout projects
10. OSAC agenda & minutes
11. DOT property in Kingston
12. Collins property preservation
13. Lemantovich preservation
14. Prepare AAC agenda
15. Update PIG status report
16. Prepare PIG amendment request to SADC
17. Trails & signs on Woodfield Estates
18. Grants (NRCS and Recreational Trails)
19. Chrin preservation
20. Scalzone Natural Area
21. Perrin survey
22. Nepote Use Agreement
23. Historic preservation sign
24. Trails Advisory Committee initial report and map
25. Attend two TAC meetings and one AAC meeting
26. Design trail crossing sign
27. Take NJ Parks Director on tour of Six Mile Run Reservoir Site
28. Mullen/Levine easement
29. Nieman property
30. Griggstown public works coordination
31. Interpretive Sourland Mountain sign
32. Invasive Species Brochure

33. Kamlesh Desai preservation
34. Inspect trails, Mellis Woods, Bunker Hill Natural Area and Woodfields Estates
35. Removal of duplicate OS sign from Coppermine Rd.
36. 90 Old Georgetown Road
37. SADC funding for PIG projects
38. ANJEC grant information to von Ohlen
39. Cichowski property clean up
40. Bike trail along site of old compost site on S. Middlebush Rd.
41. AAC, OSAC and TAC attendance reports to Clerk
42. OSTF Financial Report

**Resolution of the Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee
Regarding Naming the Westpoint Avenue Natural Area as
The John Scalzone Natural Area**

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin recently purchased land as open space on Westpoint Avenue in the Somerset section of the Township; and

WHEREAS, this open space property currently is unnamed; and

WHEREAS, in 1936 John Scalzone moved to a house just two doors away from the northern entrance to this open space; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, at the age of 21, John Scalzone enlisted in the US Army, attended Aviation Cadet School and rose to the rank of Lieutenant in the 501st Squadron of the 345th Bomb Group; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Scalzone flew over 50 combat missions in the Pacific Theater during World War II, beginning in February 1943 until his untimely death when he was killed in action on August 15, 1944; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin's Open Space Advisory Committee would like to name the West Point Avenue open space tract in memory of one of Franklin Township's war heroes and;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant John Scalzone is a war hero;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The West Point Avenue open space parcel be henceforth referred to by the Open Space Advisory Committee as the "John Scalzone Natural Area;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee does hereby request that the Council of the Township of Franklin adopt a similar Resolution to this Resolution to officially name this open space area as the John Scalzone Natural Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of that Resolution be mounted on a sign at the northern entrance to the John Scalzone Natural Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Franklin Township Council.

For the Resolution: For the Resolution: Connolly, LaCorte, Chase, Orsini, Thomas, Clyde, Triggs, Battin and Jones.

Against the Resolution: None

Adopted this 20th day of March, 2007