

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes May 17, 2016
Meeting held at Hageman House**



Melba Battin- EA
Cecile Mcglvor P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly P
Bob Vornlocker-P
Mark Healy-
Randy Jones-P
Christine Danielson A
Ted Chase-P
Fran Varacalli (Consultant) P

Robert LaCorte-P
John Moon-P
Alice Osipowitz-
Bob Puskas-Vice Chair P
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs –P
John Herrling –A
Chris Williams-P
Phil Kramer- P

1. Chairman Jones called meeting to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision 7:04pm.
2. Introductions/roll call
3. Approval of the Minutes

February 16, 2016 minutes

Puskas Moved, Schmidt seconded a motion to approve February 16th minutes. All members in favor. Motion Passed.

March 15, 2016 minutes

Puskas Moved, Schmidt seconded a motion to approve March 15th minutes. Motion passed.

4. Financial Report

Varacalli reported fund balance was \$15,775,000 after audit and current balance is \$12,730,000. Quarterly taxes had not been deposited yet.

5. 1st opening of the meeting to the public

Lacorte moved, Schmidt Seconded a motion to open to public. All members in favor. Motion passed.

Sara Malone, Caretaker Hageman House, Gave welcome behalf of Meadows foundation welcome and provided tour.

Chuck Turano, 9 Westlake Court, Franklin Twp. Baseball League(FTBL) President, John Brewer 2060 Amwell Road (FTBL). The Baseball League made a request the Township use Open Space trust Fund monies to install bathroom facilities and additional items like bleachers. The Township owns the baseball complex and leases it to the baseball league.

The Baseball league's annual budget is \$185,000 per year and there are no reserves to use install the bathroom facilities.

Mike Goshfed, 54 Hollywood Ave. Observations about Negri-Nepoti. Concerned about Mowing practices. Feels we should use multiple layered techniques, not just one method. Discussed mowing and haying.

Lacorte moved, Puskas seconded a motion to close public session. All members in favor. Motion Passed.

6. New Business

- a. Geo Cache Trail/Policy – tabled to another meeting
- b. Nature Walks Sept/Oct. – flyer handed out

7. Old business

c. Bathroom facilities at Baseball Little League– Vornlocker explained what the Township Open Space Funds could be used for. Cost of bathrooms would be allowable but the cost of a conference room would not be an allowable cost. A very rough estimate for bathroom facilities is \$200,000. It was suggested that a pocket park be added adjacent to Little League complex as the town has recently acquired vacant lots adjacent to the parking lot of the Little League field.

MacGyver moved and Triggs seconded a motion to have the Recreation Committee review the request before Open Space makes a recommendation. All members in favor. Motion passed.

- a. Things to Do Map- updates – F. Varacalli showed the proposed updates to the things to do map.
- b. Historic House(s) –update - see hand out report
- c. Native grasslands sub-committee – update C. Williams felt the grasses were mowed too low when they were cut in December 2015. F. Varacalli responded the farmer mowed the grasses the same as the previous 3 years. The farmer did not renew his contract and the Twp. will be seeking new vendors to mow the grasses. Previously, the Twp. was paid by the farmer but the Twp. may have to pay to mow the grasses moving forward.
- d. Community Based Deer Management Program –update – No update as the State has not returned phone calls and emails.
- e. Franklin Twp. Hunting 2016 Program – recommendation to review current program rules with Wildlife Control Committee and other Comm. To be discussed at next meeting.
- f. Cedar Brook Stream planting at Cedar Hill Swim Club Sat. April 30 1-3pm
Was a very successful event, over 400 sticks (trees) were planted.
- g. Park Maintenance Costs – update Varacalli reported on current procedures of various towns and counties used regarding open space funding.
The results varied with many surrounding towns and counties using the open space trust funds for maintenance and other that do not. Many of the towns that currently do not use the open space trust funds are looking into using the funds for maintenance of parks.

Lacorte moved, Puskas seconded a motion for a maximum 10 % of the open space annual tax be used for maintenance salaries. All members in favor. Motion Passed.
Stream corridor ordinance update - Concilman Chase and A. Schmidt met with Twp. Planner, Mark Healy, to create new a stream corridor ordinance.

8. Consent Agenda
 - a. Open Space consultant's work-log
9. Announcements, reports from other Committee's
10. 2nd opening of the meeting to the public-no one being present the meeting was not opened to the public.
11. The Committee may, at any time, enter into Executive Session to discuss matters involving litigation, personnel or real estate matters
Puskas moved, Lacorte seconded motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate matters. All members in favor. Motion Passed.
12. Adjournment
Puskas moved, Schmidt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. All members in favors. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Connell
Secretary

Post

Post