



**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee Minutes
September 17, 2019**

Note: There were no OSAC meetings in July and August 2019

Present:

Randy Jones, Chair
Bob Puskas, Vice-Chair
Bill Connell, Secretary
Mayor Phil Kramer
Councilman Ted Chase
Cecile MacIvor
Laurie Merris
John Moon
Arnold Schmidt
David Triggs
Chris Williams

Absent:

Melba Battin – excused
Mark Healey, Township Planner
Alice Osipowitz, Director of Recreation
John Herrling – excused
Deana Luchs

Post

1. Call to Order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Tara Kenyon introduced Jung Chung, this semester's intern from the Rutgers University Raritan Scholars Program. Jung is a junior majoring in Environmental Policies, Institutions and Behavior, and will be working on trail and farmland easement monitoring, grant applications and other tasks as assigned.

2. Minutes

OSAC did not meet in July or August of 2019. The June minutes will be approved at the October 2019 meeting.

3. Financial Report

The Committee reviewed the Financial Report as prepared by the Township's Finance Department. Tara Kenyon noted that (3) additional properties have been added to preserved lands inventory. Bob Puskas moved to accept the Financial Report, and Chris Williams seconded the motion. All approved and the motion carried.

4. New Business

a. **Grasslands Management Plan:** The New Jersey Audubon Society completed the Grasslands Maintenance Report, which was distributed to the Committee with a supplementary matrix of recommendations ahead of the meeting. The Committee discussed elements of the Plan at length, including prescribed burns, use of non-toxic herbicides, planting of cold-season grasses, and appropriate mowing schedules. The Committee also offered several recommendations for implementation of projects.

Chairman Jones asked for Grassland Sub-Committee to meet soon to review in greater detail.

b. **Grandparents Park (Willow-New Brunswick):** Tara Kenyon presented a concept plan for mixed use pocket park for children and adults. This concept would kill two birds with one stone, although OSAC generally frowns on killing birds. Equipment at the park would be equitable for all age groups and abilities, and would include a short trail, exercise/playground equipment, ADA-accessible materials, benches and shade.

Tara Kenyon stressed that she will be brainstorming ideas with DPW and Recreation for the finalization of all plans for the site.

Williams moved to approve the concept plan, and Schmidt seconded that motion. All agreed and the motion passes.

5. Old Business

a. **Update on Catalpa Park:** Bob Vornlocker reported that the presence of the Wood Turtle was found during the approval process. This required increasing the stream buffer from 50 feet to 100 feet. The park footprint has had to be redefined to accommodate this expanded buffer. OSAC will be kept abreast of all updates regarding Catalpa Park as they happen.

b. **Farmland Preservation Plan:** Approved by the Franklin Township Planning Board in August, and has been sent to SADC for final approval. The new Plan includes the most updated Census of Agriculture Data

(2017), mapping data and preserved lands inventories. The next update to the Farmland Plan will be due in 2029.

c. **Farmers Market:** This is the last weekend for 2019. The Farmers Market Committee will meet in November or December to discuss this year's Market and to plan for the 2020 season.

d. **Hunting at the Hutcheson Memorial Forest:** Bob Puskas has been working with Staff at Rutgers to design and implement a bow hunting program for this year at Hutcheson Memorial Forest. Permits will be approved by Rutgers, with Franklin Township getting copies and data from end-of-year summaries. The Program is anticipated to begin in October 2019.

e. **New Jersey Farm Bureau:** In the most recent newsletter, the NJFB announced that they will be starting Wildlife Management Program with farmers. More information will follow.

6. Committee Updates

Trails Advisory Committee: Tara Kenyon submitted a request from the TAC for binoculars for nature walks. 6-8 pairs would be ideal for guests to be able to focus on the plant and animal species encountered along the walks. Williams made a motion to approve the purchase of 6 pairs, which was seconded by Cecile Mac Ivor. All agreed and the motion passes.

A question was asked about what to do when dogs or bikes were spotted at Negri-Nepote. It was noted that the appropriate thing is to call Police and make a report.

Shade Tree Commission: Current Scout project was discussed, along with the creation of tree-identifying markers.

Environmental Commission: Michelle Smith of the DEP Fish and Wildlife will present about coyotes - tentative date April 6th

Ag Advisory Committee - Meet and greet for landowners interested in Farmland Preservation is being planned.

Recreation Commission – Main topic is the development of the Youth Center on Lewis

David Triggs added that the trails at Middlebush Park are in serious need of maintenance.

7. Public Session

Bob Puskas made a motion to enter into Public Session. Chris Williams seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting was opened for public comment.

Being that there was no public comment, Bob Puskas made a motion to close the Public Session. Cecile Mac Ivor seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting was closed for public comment.

8. Executive Session

Bob Puskas made a motion to enter into Public Session to discuss current negotiations. Mac Ivor seconded the motion. All approved and the Committee entered into Executive Session.

9. Adjournment

Cecile Mac Ivor made a motion to enter into Public Session to discuss current negotiations. Puskas seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted
Bill Connell
Secretary

Post