

**Franklin Township  
(Virtual)  
Open Space Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Sept 21, 2021, Meeting**

|                        |  |   |                       |   |   |
|------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Bob Puskas</b>      | <i>Chair/AAAC</i>                          | P | <b>Melba Battin</b>   | <i>Citizen</i>                                  | P |
| <b>Arnold Schmidt-</b> | <i>Vice Chair/Environmental Commission</i> | P | <b>Robert LaCorte</b> | <i>Historic Commission</i>                      | P |
| <b>Bill Connell-</b>   | <i>Secretary/Citizen Member</i>            | P | <b>John Moon</b>      | <i>Recreation Commission</i>                    |   |
| <b>Tara Kenyon</b>     | <i>Consultant</i>                          | P | <b>David Triggs</b>   | <i>Citizen Member</i>                           | P |
| <b>Bob Vornlocker</b>  | <i>Town Manager</i>                        | P | <b>Vacant</b>         | <i>Planning Board</i>                           |   |
| <b>Mark Healy</b>      | <i>Town Planner</i>                        |   | <b>Deana Luchs</b>    | <i>Citizen Member</i>                           |   |
| <b>Phillip Kramer</b>  | <i>Mayor</i>                               | P | <b>Chuck Martin</b>   | <i>Citizen Member/Trails Advisory Committee</i> | P |
| <b>Ted Chase</b>       | <i>Council Liaison</i>                     | P | <b>Chris Williams</b> | <i>Shade Tree Commission</i>                    | P |
| <b>William Byrtus</b>  | <i>Director - Recreation Department</i>    | P | <b>Mike Smith</b>     | <i>Board of Education</i>                       | A |

**1. CALL TO ORDER** in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)  
Chairman Puskas called meeting to order 7:04

**2. ROLL CALL**  
See above

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Triggs made a motion to open the meeting to the public, which was seconded by Bill Connell. All agreed, and the meeting was opened to the public.

Lisa Kapalecton, landowner of property adjacent to the County Route 518 Property, discussed her opposition to the allowance for hunting at the County Route 518 site. She stated that the driveway is only feet away from her property line, which would interfere with her use of her own property. Ms. Kapalecton asked that the Committee look at other access points to the property for future uses and asked that the hunting at the site be reviewed.

Having no other members of the public present, David Triggs moved to close this portion of the meeting to the public, which was seconded by Arnold Schmidt. All agreed and the motion carried.

**4. APPROVAL OF JULY 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Arnold Schimidt made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes, which was seconded by David Triggs. All agreed, and the motion carried.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

***Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study***

Tara Kenyon reported that she continues to investigate potential locations with DPW and the Environmental Commission for a green infrastructure demonstration project. The proposed new Library will have three bioretention basins – there may be a possibility to work with them to design and install this green infrastructure.

### ***Prescribed Burn/Mowing Program (2021/2022)***

Tara Kenyon reported that the mowing at the John Clyde Memorial Native Grasslands Preserve was completed by DPW in late August. The mowing at Negri-Nepote Native Grasslands Preserve is anticipated for late September.

Tara also reported that the applications for the Prescribed Burn at both Grasslands are under review at the New Jersey Fire Safety Service. Burning is anticipated to occur between January and April.

Chris Williams noted that some of the larger, woody trees are still standing after mowing at both sites. Tara responded that she is working with DPW to come up with a plan for treating and/or removing the remaining invasives over the next few months.

Bob Puskas asked about the status of being able to apply herbicide at both sites. Tara reported that we are awaiting a quote from the contractor on the State Contract. She will provide this quote for discussion as soon as its available. Chairman Puskas added that herbicide application is time sensitive.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Route 518 Hunting Property***

After discussion about the condition and location of the existing access to the property, Bob LaCorte made a motion to suspend hunting permits at the County Route 518 Property so that the Township can investigate the problems and opportunities for future use. The motion was seconded by David Triggs. All agreed and the motion carried.

### ***Extension of Green Acres Funds***

Tara Kenyon reported that she worked with Green Acres to obtain an extension on our Green Acres funding. In order to keep our funding in place, we must demonstrate active work to obtain cost-share from this source. Currently, Tara is working on providing documentation to Green Acres to obtain reimbursement on the already preserved Kalogridis property.

## **7. CONSULTANT'S MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

Tara Kenyon submitted the Consultant's Monthly Activity Report with the agenda and packet for review by the Committee

## **8. UPDATES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

Chuck Martin was introduced as the newest member of the Open Space Advisory Committee. Chuck is the Secretary of the Franklin Township Trails Advisory Committee and was a former professor of biology at Rutgers University. He is a longtime resident of Franklin Township and spends much of his free time hiking on Franklin's trails.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Triggs made a motion to open the meeting to the public, which was seconded by Bill Connell. All agreed, and the meeting was opened to the public.

Lisa Kapalecton thanked the Committee for its review of the hunting program on the County Route 518 Property. She reiterated that the narrow passage between this property and her home is worrisome. She also stated that the parking and traffic created by hunters entering the County Route 518 Property could be potentially dangerous.

Bill Bowman, Editor of the *Franklin Reporter & Advocate* asked for confirmation that hunting permits have been suspended at the County Route 518 Property until further review. It was confirmed that this is correct.

Melba Battin, a current OSAC member, stated that she felt more uses of the County Route 518 Property should be investigated. It was pointed out that this is a relatively new addition to the open space inventory, and that a full assessment of what the property should be used for has yet to be done.

Having no other members of the public present, Bob LaCorte moved to close this portion of the meeting to the public, which was seconded by Arnold Schmidt. All agreed and the motion carried.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Chris Williams made a motion to adjourn the September OSAC meeting, which was seconded by David Triggs. All agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Connell  
Secretary