

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

Bob Puskas	<i>Chair/AAAC</i>	P	Melba Battin	<i>Citizen</i>	P
Arnold Schmidt-	<i>Vice Chair/Environmental Commission</i>	P	Robert LaCorte	<i>Historic Commission</i>	P
Bill Connell-	<i>Secretary/Citizen Member</i>	P	John Moon	<i>Recreation Commission</i>	P
Tara Kenyon	<i>Consultant</i>	P	David Triggs	<i>Citizen Member</i>	P
Bob Vornlocker	<i>Town Manager</i>	P	Vacant	<i>Planning Board</i>	
Mark Healy	<i>Town Planner</i>		Deana Luchs-	<i>Citizen Member</i>	P
Phillip Kramer	<i>Mayor</i>	A	Chuck Martin	<i>Citizen Member/Trails Advisory Committee</i>	P
Ted Chase	<i>Council Liaison</i>	P	Chris Williams	<i>Shade Tree Commission</i>	P
William Byrtus	<i>Director - Recreation Department</i>	P	Mike Smith	<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 7:05

2. Roll Call.

3. Public Comment
Luchs moved, Connell seconded motion to open to public. Motion passes
Seeing no one present from the public, Moon moved, Martin seconded a motion to close to public.
All agreed and the motion passed.

4. Approval of September Meeting Minutes
Martin moved, Connell seconded motion to approved amended minutes. All agreed and the motion passed.

5. Old Business
 - a. Stewardship at Grasslands
Resolution for Maintenance of Grasslands – Tara Kenyon submitted a resolution from the Trails Advisory Committee to the Open Space Advisory Committee, which encouraged OSAC to move forward with the funding and implementation of the recommendations regarding stewardship and

maintenance of the grasslands from the *Franklin Township Grasslands Management Plan* (prepared by the New Jersey Audubon Society in 2019). These recommendations include mowing and Prescribed Burns (already underway), as well as the application of herbicide and re-seeding.

Martin moved, Luchs seconded, a motion to implement an organized herbicide plan and hire a person trained in plant biology to properly assess and make recommendations for the grasslands. These items should be included in the 2022 OSAC budget.

An extensive discussion ensued. The Committee agreed the idea is good but required more financial information on the idea and cannot be open ended.

Vornlocker reminded Committee that the Township budget is not presented for a few months and there is time to plan for this project.

Martin moved, Schmidt seconded a motion to table discussion and the original motion while he and Tara Kenyon gather additional information to present to OSAC. All agreed and the motion passed.

6. New Business

a. *Review of Infrastructure Investment Act*

Tara Kenyon reviewed the basic provisions of the Federal Infrastructure Investment Act and discussed the types of projects that could qualify for funding. She will keep the Committee apprised of how that funding becomes available.

b. *Submittal of Annual Planning Incentive Grant to the SADC*

Tara Kenyon updated the Committee that the Annual PIG Grant was submitted to the State Agriculture Development Committee. This application includes review of Township agricultural policies, updates to the preserved and targeted farms lists and maps, AAC meeting roster and meeting dates, and a resolution from the Township Council. This grant allows the Township to see cost-share reimbursement from the SADC on eligible farmland preservation projects.

c. *Flood Damage Restoration from Ira at Van Dunn-Van Wickle House*

Van Wickle House (registered on the State's Register of Historic Places) sustained damage during Hurricane Ida. The property is insured for \$250,000 (the maximum allowable). As of this date, \$130,000 had been spent on necessary repairs, and it is estimated that the total cost will most likely exceed the insured amount.

d. *2022 Meeting Dates*

Martin moved, Connell seconded, a motion to approved 2022 meeting dates (third Tuesday of every month at 7PM). It should be noted that January - March 2022 call for virtual meetings due to Covid 19 restrictions. All agreed and the motion passed.

7. Consultant's Monthly Activity Report

Tara Kenyon submitted the Consultant's Monthly Activity Report for review.

8. Updates from other Committees

No updates provided.

9. Public Comment

There were no members of the Public present, so the meeting was not opened for Public Comment.

10. Executive Session

The Committee did not hold Executive Session.

11. Adjournment

Schmidt moved, Connell seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Connell

Secretary