

**Franklin Township  
Open Space Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes of the April 19, 2022**

<b>Bob Puskas</b>	<i>Chair/AAAC</i>	P	<b>Melba Battin</b>	<i>Citizen</i>	
<b>Arnold Schmidt-</b>	<i>Vice Chair/Environmental Commission</i>	A	<b>Robert LaCorte</b>	<i>Historic Commission</i>	
<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>Ted Chase</b>	<i>Planning Board</i>	P
<b>Mark Healy</b>	<i>Town Planner</i>		<b>Deana Luchs-</b>	<i>Citizen Member</i>	P
<b>Phillip Kramer</b>	<i>Mayor</i>	P	<b>John Herrling</b>	<i>Citizen Member/Trails Advisory Committee</i>	P
<b>Ed Potasnak</b>	<i>Council Liaison</i>		<b>Chris Williams</b>	<i>Shade Tree Commission</i>	P
<b>William Byrtus</b>	<i>Director - Recreation Department</i>		<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 7:04pm
2. Roll Call (see above)
3. Public Comment  
Luchs moved -Triggs seconded a motion to open to the public. Motion Passes  
Seeing no members of the public present, Williams moved - Triggs seconded a motion to close to the public. Motion passes.
4. Approval of February 2022 Meeting Minutes - The minutes were not submitted. Approval is tabled until the next meeting.
5. Financial Report – the Financial Report was prepared by Tara Kenyon and submitted to the Committee for review and discussion.
6. New Business
  - a. Discussion about OSAC meeting schedule for May through December 2022  
The Committee agreed to hold all meetings in person for the remainder of the year. In light of the ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic, the Committee will defer to the Township Council for the need for virtual meetings in the future (if necessary).  
Williams moved, Chase seconded Motion to meet in person rest of year. Motion Passes.
  - b. Local Health Assessment Technical Assistance Grant  
Kenyon reported that the Township received a Technical Assistance Grant from Sustainable Jersey to perform a Local Health Assessment and develop a Local Health Action Plan. The Assessment will look at health conditions as they relate to Census data and planning/zoning practices to identify health disparities. The Action Plan will provide recommendations for mitigating these disparities to move towards health equity. A Steering Committee is being formed and will meet at the of May to kick off the project.
  - c. Trails Mapping Project-Field Maps App  
Kenyon reported that the Trails Advisory Committee is using the ArcGIS Field Maps App to properly mark our trails and update all mapping. AT in the Township's IT Department has been instrumental in setting up the app and using the data to create new, user-friendly mapping.
  - d. Tree Management at Trails  
Check Martin stated that it is important to discuss tree management along trails. Downed trees can make trails impassible, and the Ash bore is still a serious issue. Leaving downed trees in some areas may be more appropriate to provide for habitat and

forest regeneration. Chuck feels that a policy should be developed to provide guidance as to when trees should be removed or left down.

## 7. Old Business

### a. *Stewardship at Grasslands*

No burn yet to due to weather. Now, it is too late in the season to burn. The Township will need to assess the grasslands after nesting season (September 1<sup>st</sup> and on) to determine what management strategies need to be implemented.

### b. *Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification*

Tara and Ted are working on the Recertification Application to Sustainable Jersey to retain our Silver Certification. Intern, Justin Cairns, prepared a detailed spreadsheet listing all of the completed and recommended actions, which will serve as a living document. The application is due May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

8. Consultant's Monthly Activity Report – Tara submitted her monthly Consultants's Report for review by the Committee.

## 9. Updates from other Committees

*Environmental:* Cleanup of Mile Run held on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This effort netted 3500lbs of garbage, 140 bags of trash bags. The Commission is also educating the public about the Plastic Bag Ban, which goes into effect on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Historic-* a question was asked about the status of the Diversion at the Dunn House. Tara reported that she is working with the Township's Engineering Department on lot renumbering that needed to be completed prior to holding the Scoping Hearing.

*Shade Tree:* Williams reported that the Shade Tree Commission will be giving away saplings for Arbor Day at the Kingston School. Tara will share the flyer on the Township's website and social media.

*Agriculture:* Puskas reported that the Committee is organizing an in-person "meet and greet" with eligible land owners interested in Farmland Preservation.

*Trails:* The Girl Scout project to develop a sensory trail with signage at Middlebush Park continues to move forward. As stated above, the Committee continues to work on updating trails maps and will be re-marking the trails with paint blazes over the summer.

## 10. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

## 11. Executive Session

Williams moved, Herrling seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss property negotiations. No action will be taken after Executive Session.

## 12. Adjournment

Triggs moved, Connell seconded a motion to adjourn The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Connell  
Secretary

