

Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes
April 17, 2012



Melba Battin-P
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Craig Novick
Mark Healy-P
Randy Jones-P
Richard Seamon-
Ted Chase-P

Robert LaCorte-P
John Moon-P
Alice Osipowitz-
Bob Puskas-P
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs -P
John Herrling -P
Chris Williams-P

1. Call to order Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:03pm Members present indicated above by (P).
2. Christine Retz, President, Meadows Foundation , Thanked the committee for coming and gave a brief history of the house including below. The committee would like to thank the Meadows for their warm welcome.

Standing atop the hill where South Middlebush and Blackwells Mills Roads meet, with a spectacular view of the Franklin countryside, fields and woods, of the Six-Mile Run Valley, the sunsets may have been one reason Peter Van Liew settled on this site back in the 1700's, and why Joseph Suydam later built part of the house that is seen today. The newest and largest portion of the house was built in 1875. Although the most recent long term owner of the house was named French, the house has been named after its two founders builders, Van Liew-Suydam. The ornate woodworking on the porch and walls clearly demonstrates a perfect example of the architecture of a 19th century Victorian farmhouse.

3. Jones asked for a Motion to pass minutes from March 20th . Schmidt moved, Connolly Seconded, motion to pass minutes with corrections. Motion Passes

4. Financial Report. Financial report dated 4/17/2012 was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF is \$15,064,397.64 Connell moved, Schmidt seconded motion to except report. Motion Passes
5. Connell moved, Puskas seconded motion to Open first opening to public

Barbara Tembrook: Amwell Road, Speaking on behalf of Susan Heinz To consider the purchase her property at the corner of Blackwell's Mills And Canal. (In the Canal Zone) This had previously been brought to the committee' attention. She had recently applied for a state grant that was not granted. She requested the committee consider purchase of this property.

Shelly Lemly and Aaron Lemly Canal Road. Made Additional Eloquent statements about the esthetic beauty of the property.

Motion Connell moved and Connolly seconded motion to close meeting to public.

6. New Business-Historic
 - a. Varacalli presented the suggested spending on historic maintenance by the historic consultant
-an importance maintenance list over three years
Totaling \$751,000 in addition, it was recommended that the annual OSAC allotment for Historic be raised from \$140,000 to a three year plan of 1st year \$250,000 and (2) years of \$200,000 to bring the houses up to par.
 - b. Puskas presented the 2011/2012 hunting statistics. The harvest has increased significantly and the car accident rate is down. The committee had previously approved a one year extension to the plan to allow additional analysis of the success of the new program. After (2) successful years, Puskas moved and Williams seconded, Motion to approve Two year extension of current hunting program. Motion Passes
 - c. Summer help-Varacalli reported that Public Works will attend the Towns job fair Thursday.
Lacorte moved, Connell seconded, motion to approve summer help, two people, up to \$13,000.00. Motion Passes

- d. Jones/Varacalli presented the final iteration of the North/South Bike Trail, Through Memorial Forest, Up Van Cleef Road, Through Six Mile Run, eventually connecting to South Middlebush Road. Additional information is included in the recreation needs study

Puskas moved, LaCorte seconded motion to approve as presented. Motion passes

Additional discussion ensued regarding why the railroad easements, adjacent to Memorial Forest, are not going to be used as originally planned.

Complaints from the adjacent land owners forced us to abandon the plan. It was also noted that some of these same land owners are still encroaching on the town property as if it were their own.

7. Old Business

- a. Varacalli presented news article regarding Middlebush Park, A conversation ensued regarding getting more information through the newspaper than directly reported to the committee.
- b. Battin reported April 28th is a work day at Negri Nepoti. Puskas commented that the gas company is mowing down planting areas and wondered if the planting is encroaching on the right of way. It has been checked and the gas company is mowing past the easement.
- c. Varacalli reported that the Audubon Society has yet to set birdwalk dates. At this time Chris Williams , OSAC member, volunteered to run the birdwalks. The committee thanked Mr. Williams for taking on this large and important commitment.

8. Consent Agenda

The following were reviewed

- a. Consultants work log
 - clarification was requested regarding Loos working on N/S trail
- b. Historic Preservation Consultant work log
- c. Scout project list

9. Committee Reports

- Battin Repeated Information regarding April 28th Negri Nepoti Work Day
- Schmidt reported Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association Sponsored river clean up April 28th

10. Connolly moved, Connell seconded motion to Open second opening to public Motions passes
Nancy Cole 1 Boonton Ct.
Schmidt moved, Puskas seconded, motion to close meeting to public
Motion passes

11. Executive Session

Connell Moved, Puskas seconded, motion to adjourn, Motion Pass 9:29

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Connell
Secretary

Minutes for Packet