

**Franklin Township
Open Space Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 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-P
Bob Puskas-
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs -P
John Herling -P
Chris Williams-P

1. Call to order Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:05pm Members present indicated above by (P).
2. **Election of officers.** The committee elected officers in accordance with the following: LaCorte moved, Connolly seconded a motion to nominate Jones as Chair, Puskas as Vice Chair, and Connell as Secretary. No other nominations were moved, motion passes unanimously
3. Approval of the December 20, 2011 minutes:
Schmidt moved and Connolly seconded a motion to approve minutes with corrections. Motion Carried.
4. Financial Report. Financial report dated 1/17/2011 was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF is \$15,060,939.60. This figure includes pending land transaction costs.
5. Connell moved, Connolly seconded motion to Open first opening to public
Motions passes
-Charlon Spangenberg-483 Elizabeth Avenue
Requested consideration of OSAC to purchase property (3.9 acres) and suggested possible uses including solar farm
LaCorte moved, Moon seconded, motion to close to the public, motions passes
6. Jones requested change to agenda, where New Business is moved upfront
LaCorte moved, Connell seconded, motion to change adjust agenda, motion passes

7. New Business

- a) Alice Osipowitz reported request was made for \$80,000 in matching funds for Dep recreation and Trails grant for paved pathway at Middlebush Park
Lacorte moved, Connell seconded motion to table decision till next month due to need for clarification. Motion Passes
In addition
Alice reported they are starting construction of Middlebush Park entrance way
Committee requested improved communication regarding Middlebush park plans. A request was made to see plan for entrance and the latest potential field plan if available
- b) Reminder, fiscal year has now been moved to a calendar year.
- c) Committee was reminded to review and comply with October 25, 2011
Resolution #11-438 regarding Electronic communications and the Open Public Meetings Act
- d) Jones reported the NJ Land Rally at Brookdale college March 10th, all members were encouraged to attend
- e) Jones reported the Garden State Preservation Trust fund is running out.
Originally approved for \$400,000,000 through sales tax in 2009. Will lose matching funds for Agricultural/farm and open space land preservation deals.
- f) Chase reported the Cable TV Committee would like to film OSAC for Volunteer Practice. Committee expressed concerns of having an unofficial document, of an official meeting.
LaCorte moved; Moon seconded motion not to allow practice filming of meeting. Motion Passes
- g) Trail Easement for Memorial Forest
John and Fran plan to meet with Mr. Kalogridis to discuss a possible donation of a trail easement through his property to connect a bike path from Memorial Forest to existing bike trail on Elizabeth Ave.
- h) Scalzone Property
Fran reported that Scalzone property was preserved by Franklin Twp funds. Joanne Begrin, Franklin Twp. Grants Coordinator, will seek 50% reimbursement of the purchase and due diligence costs from NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres program local assistance grants program.

8. Old Business

- a. Healey reported The historic portion of the study will be completed by end of January. In addition the recreation study will be presented

to council for review and adoption, late February or early March in a public session.

- b. Connell reported previously approved \$6,000 in funds in 2008 for annual Audubon society walks have been exhausted. The committee was requested to approve a new fund of \$6,000.00 for future walks. The committee was reminded that the Audubon society, in addition to the walks, is a valuable partner in managing the Negri Nepoti, and Griggstown grass land areas.
Schmidt moved Williams seconded motion to approve funds.
 - c. The trails maps are running out and need to be reprinted. The committee approves but a discussion ensued regarding having sponsors, and advertising the assets of Franklin Township on the maps. A request was made to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce and other partners to better utilize the branding potential of the maps.
Connell will prepare several pricing options of the maps for February meeting to discuss.
9. Connell moved, Mettler seconded motion to Open second opening to public
Motions passes
Seeing no one
Connolly moved, Connell seconded, motion to close meeting to public
Motion passes
 10. Announcements
 - a. Bunker Hill trails in bad shape after fall 2011 storms. Need public works to help clean up.
 - b. Trails Advisory Committee suggested a possible joint meeting with the OSAC.
 - c. Mettler asked how well did Negri Nepoti Spray work, Jones reported timing was almost perfect and all indications are it worked well.
Will review again in the spring.
 - d. Battin reported they will be continuing the wildlife action plan in the spring at Negri Nepote.
 11. Executive Session

Connell Moved, Schmidt seconded, motion to adjourn, Motion Pass
9:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Connell
Secretary