

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 15, 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
Phil Kramer (MP Liason)

Call to order Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:01pm Members present indicated above by (P).

1. Schmidt Moved, Triggs seconded Motion to pass minutes from April 17th with corrections. Motion Passes.
2. Financial Report. Financial report dated 4/17/2012 was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF is \$11,875,011.44 Connell moved, Schmidt seconded motion to except report. Motion Passes
3. Open first opening to public: no one present
4. New Business-Historic
 - a. Negri Nepoti had two work days (25) the first day, (20) people the second day helped. Placed plastic around the bird blind, mulched and planted native grasses. Melba is planning Spring volunteer workdays.
 - b. Otterbein family on Skillman complained people from Negri Nepote Open Space are trespassing on their land. Open Space will look into additional buffering to discourage encroachment.
 - c. F. Varacalli reported Franklin has a new green acres rep: Liz Mataset.
5. Old Business
 - a. F. Varacalli reviewed Middlebush Park Trail grant break down Of Time and Material totaling \$65,000.00 for phase 1. Additional trail work will be considered after final recreation improvements of park are completed.

- b. Councilman Kramer reviewed Middlebush Park finance options. In summary the committee was presented with the option of bonding for the funds or using cash directly out of the Open Space trust fund. The concern being, in the short term the fund may have too low a balance to be affective if we pay all funds directly out of the fund, before being replenished with next years tax revenue.

Triggs moved and Schmidt seconded: Motion to avoid bonding as long as possible. Motion Passes

- c. Kingston School . It is in a historic district on the green acres roster. This greatly limits its uses. It currently has no tenant. Connelly reported it takes approximately \$3,000 month to heat. Chase mused that the reason the building has fallen into disrepair is due to inaction to maintain the building, while trying devising and planning a new use. Other opinions are due to its age, without a tenant, bringing it up to code would be a waste of money. Along with the potential to find a green energy solutions for the building, they are also looking at changing its classification and dividing the property to increase its uses.
- d. F. Varacalli reviewed the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Blue Acres Program to see if any potential properties in Franklin Twp. would be considered for preservation under this program.

6. Consent Agenda

The following were reviewed

- a. Consultants work log
- b. Historic Preservation Consultant work log
- c. Scout project list

7. Committee Reports

- F. Varacalli reported a J&J volunteer day is scheduled on Negri Nepote
- Connelly reported Trails Advisory Committee updates discussing ways to promote trails.
North South Bike Trail
Griggstown trail adjacent to gas pipeline is washing away.
-discussed moving it or possibly putting down barrier to prevent washing away

8. Executive Session

Lacorte Moved, Connell seconded, motion to adjourn, Motion Pass 8:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Connell
Secretary