

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes October 18, 2012**

Melba Battin-P
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Bob Vornlocker
Mark Healy
Randy Jones-P
Richard Seamon-
Ted Chase-7:20

Robert LaCorte-P
John Moon-P
Alice Osipowitz-
Bob Puskas-
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs -P
John Herrling-P
Chris Williams-P
Phil Kramer (MP Liaison)-P

1. Call to order Meeting was called to order by Chairmen Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:00pm Members present indicated above by (P).
2. **Minutes:** Williams moved; Moon seconded motion to approve minutes with corrections.

3. Financial Report. Financial report dated was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF is \$9,143,411.02 Williams asked to confirm when debt service is paid and when tax revenue is installed into fund. Connell moved; Schmidt seconded motion to except report. Motion Passes
4. Open first opening to public: LaCorte Moved, Williams seconded motion to open first open session.
Seeing no one present

Connell moved, Williams seconded motion to close public session
5. New Business
 - a. Barbara Laurence Consultant Re: Stoothoff Gunther Farmstead. Present concept plan and financial outlines for proposed agriculture center. Committee will review presentation and discuss at next meeting.
Schmidt moved Williams seconded motion to review presentation. Motion Passes

b. Varacalli reported that the township has been awarded a green acres grant, the committee was asked to consider properties to which it can be applied. Several options were discussed and will be revisited at November meeting

c. Athletic Fields at Colonial Park. The community has requested information on these new fields: This is a Somerset County park project. There is

d. OSAC Consultant Contract 2013. At this time Fran Varacalli left room. The committee expressed great appreciation of her work. Schmidt moved, Triggs seconded a motion to renew contract of FAV Consulting for 2013, as a (unfair) Motion Passes unanimously

Moon moved, Williams seconded a motion to increase FAV Consulting hourly rate \$5.00 from \$85.00 to \$90.00 per hour. Motion passes unanimously

e. Varacalli requested clarification of what is the intent of the committee for improvements on Scott Property (Marden Preserve) a gravel driveway and park benches were discussed. Lacorte once again repeated his objection to doing anything.

6. Old Business.

a. Middlebush Park. It was discussed the bad form the Soccer Club showed by not inviting open space members to there Ribbon Cutting till the last minute. It was also discussed the Township will not have its official Ribbon Cutting till next year after all improvements are completed.

b. Invasive species are a growing concern in Grasslands. A program of herbicides is being reviewed

c. Varacalli reported PSEG is doing Easement work on the Blue Trail on Negri Nepoti

d. Wyckoff. Was in a Regiment in New Orleans during the Civil War. He is buried along the yellow trail in Griggstown Preserve

e. Open Space Nature walk is scheduled for October 28th
Fall Foliage /Bird Watching

7. Second Opening to Public. Lacorte moved, Schmidt seconded Motion to open to public. Motion Passes

Tom Gale, Chair of Historic Committee, Spoke of positive aspects and potential of Stoothoff Gunther Farmstead Plan
Connell Moved, Schmidt seconded motion to close meeting to public, motion passes

8. Executive Session Lacorte Moved, Schmidt Seconded motion to go into executive session

Schmidt Moved, Lacorte seconded, motion to adjourn, Motion Pass 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Connell
Secretary

PROSE