

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

Melba Battin-P
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Bob Vornlocker-P
Mark Healy
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 Liaison)-P

Note: July and August 2012 meetings canceled

1. Call to order Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:02pm Members present indicated above by (P).
2. **Minutes:** In the review of the May and June Minutes, Schmidt commented that in the May meeting, the committee voted to recommend holding off bonding as long as possible. In retrospect, if we had known at that time the actual OSTF dollar amount the Council was going to approve for Middlebush Park, which was a lot more than the OSAC had been told, he would have made the case that to spend that amount, without bonding, could jeopardize our ability to purchase properties currently under review. Therefore he said he likely would have voted to bond at that time.

Puskas moved, Herrling seconded motion to approve minutes with corrections. Motion Passed

3. Financial Report. Financial report dated was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF is \$10,130,011.44. Williams moved, Puskas seconded motion to except report. Motion Passes
4. Open first opening to public: Connell Moved, Williams seconded motion to open first open session.
 - Gene Gerlick 42 Como Drive
At the time her land was sold to Open Space, a fence was installed That fenced is now degrading and she requested it be repaired or replaced
 - Robin Sydam/Margaret West-Six Mile Run Church (Built:1879)
Original grant of \$72,000 previously approved. In the course of the work, additional conditions needed to be resolved, as laid out in revised bid form dated 8/31/12.

- 1) Six Mile Run Church Original Grant, \$72,000, Accepted Bid, \$129,800. From Documents Dated 8/31/12 .LaCorte moved, Williams's seconded motion to approve additional funds for Six Mile Run Church. Motion Passes

Connell moved, Puskas seconded motion to close public session

5. New Business

- a. Negri Nepoti Mowing: Varacalli reported a more aggressive Mowing schedule to manage invasive species including Canada thistle and Mug wart. Williams was concerned that Cutting to early affects grasses and bird habitats. , Varacalli countered that waiting too long will exasperate the growing concerns about invasive species

A subcommittee was formed to review and advise on best mowing plan. (Herrling-Williams-Connolly-Puskas). Chairman Jones requested a report be given to committee when complete

- b. Mercer County. Varacalli presented news article regarding Mercer county voting on dedicating a specific amount of open Space tax to maintenance of park land. This article may guide the committee thinking in the future.

http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2012/07/mercer_county_freeholders_vote.html

- c. Smith Road Residents Encroachment on open space land. This neighborhood fought heavily against using the rail bed as a trail several years ago, so that plan was abolished. At the time it was noticed several encroachments of private property onto the open space land. A recent review of the trail bed has revealed additional encroachments. One by-passing the rail and entering Galdi farm. A survey will be taken and notices will be sent out to residences to resolve issue.
- d. Magellan Way. Residents are dumping grass and encroaching On Catalpa open space property. This condition will be reviewed
- e. Quarry in Kingston. Part of the Kingston quarry may qualify for green acres funds
- f. Dunn and Gunther Varacalli reported agreement may be able to be amended to remove house from ROSI

- g. Mowing. The issue of proper mowing seems to be a growing problem. It was suggested that a group be trained on what proper mowing procedures should be. The sentiment of the committee was this is a good idea, but mowing is filler work and We are lucky to get it done at all, no less correctly. The suggestion will be discussed to see what cooperation we get.

Mowing. It was asked to review all current mowing instructions for trails to make sure public works is properly informed on what needs to be done.

- h. Puskas reported bikes being seen on Negri Nepoti, which is not allowed. It was assumed that people are coming off Six Mile Run and Skillman road and may not be aware they are on a new property.
- i. Jones/Varacalli requested Connell (secretary) to return minutes inside the monthly cycle of meetings to assure proper follow up on matters discussed during meetings.

6. Old Business.

- a. Middlebush Park.

- It was reported that Walking Trail work has begun

- The first artificial turf field by parking lot is complete. They just completed seeding area. Vornlocker made note that even the footprint of the second turf field was seeded to prevent erosion and safety problems. It should also be noted on this Tuesday it rained like cats and dogs. This was a perfect stress test for the drainage plan of the park.

- b. Summer Help. The summer help was very productive.

- They rebuilt boardwalks, Put up signs, worked on invasive species, and reworked trails. Several damaged by Hurricane Irene. They worked for approximately 8 weeks.

- c. Nature Walks

- Chris Williams Volunteered to run woodcock walks March 1 and March 15, 2013, the balance to be run by Audubon.

- Motion goes here

- d. Connolly reminded everyone about Canal fest, October 6th

- Rain Date October 7th

- e. LaCorte reported the Over 50 softball league will be playing a Softball game against the Franklin PBA as a fundraiser for the Franklin Food Bank, Sept 23rd. In Lower Inman Park

7. Executive Session

Connelly Moved, Williams seconded, motion to adjourn, Motion Pass 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Connell
Secretary

POST