

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes January 22, 2013**

Melba Battin-P
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Bob Vornlocker-P
Mark Healy
Randy Jones-P
Julia Presley-P
Ted Chase-P

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

Call to order Meeting was called to order by Varacalli in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:04pm Members present indicated above by (P). .

1. Election of officers. The committee elected officers in accordance with the following

- Randy Jones as Chair.
- Bob Puskas as Vice-Chair.
- Bill Connell as Secretary.

Williams Moved, LaCorte Seconded motion to approve officers. Motion approved

Minutes: Triggs moved; Moon seconded motion to approve minutes with corrections.

1. Financial Report. Financial report dated was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF as \$11,065,897.00
-Connell requested clarification that the reported balance in the minutes is the fund balance after all accruals, not the current actual balance.

LaCorte moved, Connell seconded motion to except report. Motion Passes

2. Open first opening to public: Connell Moved, Connolly seconded motion to open first open session.
Monica McLaughlin 1651 Amwell Road

Schmidt moved, Williams seconded motion to close public session

3. New Business

- a. Williams reported Shade Tree committee is looking for new members
- b. Varacalli presented 2013 Calendar dates. The 3rd Tuesday of every month. Historically the August meeting has been canceled but based on work load; the decision will be made at that time. LaCorte moved, Williams Seconded motion to approve 2013 meeting calendar. Motion approved
- c. Varacalli reminded committee to review the email sent regarding the Duties and Functions of the Open Space Committee
- d. Varacalli reported she will be reviewing with Mark Healy any updates required to the Open Space Master plan
-Moon commented that we should stay focused on the guidelines in the master plan. It was also discussed if we should maintain a minimum balance in the fund.
- e. Varacalli reported that the D&R canal rep has requested a sign on Middlebush Road. Since this is a county road they are having a meeting January 24th. She then reviewed sign color and proper distance requirements which will have an effect on placement and effectiveness of the sign.

They will also be discussing the North /South Bike Trail

- f. Varacalli Presented the Trails Committee photo contest winners. The possibility of creating a calendar was discussed.
- g. Schmidt requested the committee support ,
Angec , Keep it Green Initiative.
Schmidt moved, Connell seconded motion to support the "Keep it green initiative.

4.

5. Old Business.

- a. Varacalli reported status of Hurricane Clean up.
- b. Invasive Species management was discussed on grassland preserves at Griggstown and Negri Nepoti
- c. Additional information was presented regarding the Stoothoff Gunther preserve plan

6. Consent Agenda

Triggs moved, Williams second to approve consent agenda
Motion Passes

7. Reviewed scout projects

At close of meeting, Schmidt brought up the concern that by supporting the scout projects, we are by proxy advocating the Boy Scouts of America discriminatory policies against gays. A long conversation ensued from various points of view. In summary the point of the scout projects is to support our town youth with community service projects Varacalli will communicate with the town manager and council on the town's position on Mr. Schmidt's concern and how to communicate it.

8. Second Opening to Public

Second Opening to Public. LaCorte moved, Williams seconded
Motion to open to public. Motion Passes

Ken Carmichael –Concerned about storm damage to canal from storms and replacement of bridge

LaCorte Moved, Connelly seconded motion to close meeting to public,
motion passes

9. Committee Reports

Reminder Shade Tree Committee is looking for new Members

10. Executive Session Williams Moved, Seconded motion to go into executive session

Herrling Moved, LaCorte seconded, motion to adjourn, Motion Pass
9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Bill Connell
Secretary