

**Franklin Township  
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund  
Advisory Committee  
Minutes March 19, 2013**

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

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

Call to order Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:00pm Members present indicated above by (P). .

1. Review of January and February 2013 Minutes
  - a) Williams moved, Schmidt seconded, motion to approve January minutes with corrections, motion passes (1) abstain
  - b) Williams moved, LaCorte seconded, motion to approve February minutes with corrections, motion passes (1) abstain
  - c)
2. Financial Report: Chase commented that until final budget is adopted The bond refinancing will not be reflected in the report. It was also reported that tax revenue for Open Space is expected to go down this year and estimated \$50,000-\$60,000.00 dollars. The Current balance of the OSTF is \$10,822,285.83.  
Williams moved, Connolly second motion to approve financial Report  
Motion Passes
3. Open first opening to public: Connell Moved, Williams seconded motion to open first open session.  
Tom Gale, 14 Ford Road (and member of Historic Committee)  
Introduced himself to the committee.  
Mettler moved, Connolly Seconded motion to close to the public
4. New Business

- a. Varacalli reported she is still in discussion with NJDEP Somerset County Land Steward for Tulipwood, Dunn, Gunther and Kingston Schools, to relieve the down of these properties.

A discussion ensued on two points-

-the health of the house and barns on Dunn Gunther. Vornlocker offered to lead a site visit, expressing specific concern about the Gunther barns. A date tbd.

The Dunn house would require \$315,000 dollars to bring up to code  
And if rented could yield a rent of \$2,300 month.

Williams moved, Mettler seconded a motion to remove Gunther barns after review of site by Historic Committee. Motion Passes.

-As previously discussed, any change in ownership of these properties will include any easements, restrictions, and historic status that was in the Franklin's original purchase agree

- b. 2d Barcodes (QR codes). Connell reported that is creating 2D barcodes for the Trail head Kiosks around town at Varacalli' request. This will allow someone with a smart phone to scan the barcode and it will bring you to the specific trail map on the town website. He will present them at next meeting for testing

Varacalli addressed the concern about paper maps. The barcodes are just an additional tool, and we will continue to provide paper maps.

- c. Varacalli reported The Northern Jersey Geo Cashers is sponsoring a trail at Griggstown  
(Geo caching is treasure hunting with a GPS tool)
- d. Varacalli will review the Sustainable Jersey Wildlife action plan
- e. Bowmans Hill Wild Life Preserve Land Ethics Award for 2014  
It was suggested nominating Kathy Blumig for the Award
- f. June 1<sup>st</sup> is National Trails day, OSAC will be sponsoring a cleanup day, rain or shine

## 5. Old Business.

- a. Varacalli reminded committee that April 16, meeting will be at Van Wickle House on Easton avenue at foot of Demott Lane
- b. Open Space volunteer days: April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Advisory committee for Open Space Plan to meet April 8th
- c. An addendum to the Open Space trust fund was presented to the committee, based on review of the originally approved budget by Council.

Vornlocker explained that there needs to be a more appropriate number allocated for materials for maintenance of open space lands. Based on previous data a budget of \$73,000.00 was presented.

Mettler Moved, Williams Seconded motion to approve the addition of \$73,000.00 in maintenance expenses to Annual Open Space Budget, Under the agreement that Open Space requested a monthly reporting of Expenses. This motion in way suggests approval for Salaries of Normal Park Employees. Motion Passes, 1 Nay.

- d. Varacalli reported on Middlebush Trail Blazers walk through of new trails
- e. Native Grassland Advisory committee has not met yet TBD

6. Consent Agenda

7. Second Opening to Public-

Williams Moved, Connell moved, motion to open to public  
Tom Gale, 14 Ford Avenue

- Gunther Barns-requested clarification on the degraded condition of the barns. Since Gunther is a contributing property he advised barns can be removed
  - Request clarification on the process of divesting historic properties
  - Requested copies of Opens Space Scout volunteer project lists
  - Requested website be updated with current minutes
- Williams moved, Connolly seconded, motion to close public session  
Motion Passes

8. Committee Reports

Schmidt Reported on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Environmental Commission will be hosting a Seminar regarding the Eastern Coyote, presented by New Jersey Fish and Wild Life

9. Executive Session Connolly Moved, Connell Seconded motion to go into executive session

Connell Moved, Connolly seconded, Williams motion to adjourn, Motion Pass 9:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bill Connell  
Secretary