

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes Oct 15th, 2013**



Melba Battin-EA
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Bob Vornlocker-P
Mark Healy-
Randy Jones-P
Julia Presley-
Ted Chase-P (8:00)
Fran Varacalli (Consultant)

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-P (8:00)

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision
Introductions/roll call 7:03
2. Approval of the September 17, 2013 minutes Approved with Corrections
Puskas moved, Williams seconded motion to approve minutes, Motion Passes
3. Financial Report
Previous Mont-10,800,000) Current-\$11,406,577.15
4. Puskas, moved, Williams seconded motion to approve financial report , Motion Passes
5. 1st opening of the meeting to the public
Puskas moved, Connell seconded motion to open to public, Motion Passes

Chris Geckler 900 Canal Road.
New Business-Nov 2005. Approved to place signs off property with their permission
Requesting to place signs on township space land advertising the farm. (This matter will be discussed further in the agenda

Williams moved, Connell seconded to close meeting to public.

- 6.
7. New Business
 - a. *Southern Park (Catalpa) Concept Plan Presentation*
Tom Zelnick Council approved concept plan by firm CME
Two different pitches 6 tennis courts, 4 basketball courts
Two Softball fields
Plan cost \$20,000 .00...Time Frame. Possibly Mid 2014

- b. Seasonal Agriculture signs on Twp. Open Space
Puskas, Mettler moved motion to approve temporary signs, passes

Alice Osipowitz, Made Presentation about smokes free parks. A thorough conversation ensued regarding the topic. Puskas Moved and Connell Seconded motion to recommend smoke free park with designated areas. Motion Passes

- c. Proposed Colonial Park Trail
- d. Hutcheson Memorial Forest deer fence
Concerned about deer management Professor Steve Handel @ Rutgers
Estimated 200 or so deer on property
- e. Vornlocker spoke of about marketing and tourism of FT's public assets
- f. Liberty Elm trees for Negri, and Griggstown for Shade Tree,

8. Old business

Vornlocker introduced Tiffany Delaney

- a. Historic Signs Tiffany Delaney, Special Projects Manager
East Millstone: (2) locations on Amwell (1) Elm & Market

Herrling moved. Mettler seconded approved sign concepts
For villages. Estimated cost per sign-\$350-\$400
Somerset County \$120,000 look at these guides

Premium \$2500.00 Full Page Add \$1,750.00

Visitsomersetnj.org

Puskas, Lacorte moved to buy full page add Motion Passes

- b. Open Space Plan – update -Mark not available
- c. Update on Middlebush Park Improvements and Trail
Concrete Barriers for more controlled parking
- d. Native grasslands sub committee
 - i. Invasive Management and PSE&G maintenance-
- e. Park and Open Space signs consistency: Tiffany will work on this
Along with other historic district signage projects
- f. Rock Pyramid (cairn) structure, Griggstown –Orange Trail
Just additional conversation-no action
- g. Proposed Colonial Park trail link to Canal Walk
Developers agreement discussion, was used as the money
Original development money for Grass fields Middlebush Park

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Open Space consultant's work-log

10. Announcements, reports from other Committee's

11. 2nd opening of the meeting to the public

Connell moved, Puskas seconded, motion to open to public, motion passes

Katy Blumig, 176 Bennetts Lane Hutchinson Forest

Pleased to see Rutgers has someone in place to proactively manage Property

(Professor Steve Handel). Reiterated the fact that part of the reason the property has such a deer Problem is lack of proper management in recent years

Connell-Schmidt motion to close public session, motion passes

12. The Committee may, at any time, enter into Executive Session to discuss matters involving litigation, personnel or real estate matters

Wild Turkey Seminar October 21st Reminder

Canalfest -October 19th

Griggstown Walks

Geo Cache

Ted Chase: Recommended Invasive species sub-committee, will work with Vornlocker to create committee

Connell moved Williams seconded motion to go into Executive Session, Motion Passes

13. Adjournment

Connell moved, Williams seconded, motion to adjourn. Motion Passes

9:45

Respectfully submitted
Bill Connell
Secretary

Minutes for Packet