

**Franklin Township  
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund  
Advisory Committee  
Minutes November 19th<sup>h</sup>, 2013**



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

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

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision 7:02pm
2. Introductions/roll call
3. Approval of the October 15, 2013 minutes, Triggs Moved, Williams seconded motion to Approve with corrections. Motion Passes.
4. Financial Report \$17,484,000 current balance. \$11,270,461.73 unused funds  
Puskas moved, Williams seconded motion to approve financial report.
5. 1st opening of the meeting to the public: Mettler moved, Puskas seconded  
Motion passes. Seeing no one, Mettler moved, Connolly seconded motion  
To close public session, Motion Passes.
6. New Business
  - a. Resolution in support of a 2014 Open Space Ballot question  
State Senate Approved, Assembly pending  
200 Million of Total Sales Revenue to Open Space funding  
  
Schmidt move, Triggs, seconded a motion to make a recommendation to Council  
to draft a resolution to support pending legislation in State Senate and Assembly  
to support long term stable source of funding. Motion Passes.
  - b. 2014 Open Space Committee Meeting schedule  
Jones suggested adjusting schedule to less meetings.

But due to Sunshine Laws, it is easier to schedule and cancel Williams moved, Puskas seconded, a motion to approve schedule. As previous, the third Tuesday of each month. Motion Passes.

- c. Committee Holiday Party December 17 6:30pm.
- d. Open Space Consultant Contract 2014

The Open Space Advisory Committee approved the following motion to renew the contract of FAV Consulting for 2014.

Chris Williams moved, Jack Connolly seconded the motion to make a recommendation to Council to award FAV Consulting a one year non-fair and open contract for CY/FY 2014 for a rate of \$90.00 per hour for an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00 annually. Motion passes unanimously.

The committee expressed appreciation to FAV consulting for contributing to the continued success of Franklin Township Open Space Program.

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#### 7. Old business

- a. Hutcheson Memorial Forest deer fence – update
  - \*Rutgers, working on timing of the installation of 8 foot fence and with the Township to determine wildlife management tools for the existing heard of deer in HMF.
- b. Historic Signs – update
  - \*Tiffany Delaney went to historic committee, Historic wanted to provide guidance. The committee feedback to Open Space was that the materials were too modern. The Historic committee wants to do research of their own and will provide their recommendations to the Open Space Committee.
- c. Open Space Plan – update
  - Varacalli reported Draft posted online.
- d. Update on Middlebush Park Improvements and Trail
  - \*Clearing out of Trees, Triggs noted they may have over cleared.
  - Triggs moved, Connolly seconded a motion to ensure that the clear cutting was done in designated areas only. Motion Passes.
- e. Native grasslands sub committee
  - \*Need to Schedule Meeting
  - \*Williams asked status of seeding. Wait and See in Spring
  - \* Russian Olives invasive in Griggstown,
  - \* Battin wanted to broaden RFP to Negri Nepoti
  - \* Williams moved, Connolly seconded, a motion to receive quotes from companies to help remove large invasives trees at Griggstown/  
..M. Battin , Nay

- i. ~~Invasive Management and PSE&G maintenance~~

- f. Proposed Colonial Park trail link to Canal Walk  
Varacalli reported Trails Advisory Committee is in approval of this connector
- g. Open Space Sign Parameters  
Varacalli gave short list of sign requirements.
- h. Geo Cache program 100 people in attendance October 27th, a big success with newspaper coverage.  
Exhibit A:  
[http://www.nj.com/somerset/index.ssf/2013/11/hold\\_photos\\_griggstown\\_preserve\\_goes\\_hi-tech\\_with\\_geo-cache\\_trail.html](http://www.nj.com/somerset/index.ssf/2013/11/hold_photos_griggstown_preserve_goes_hi-tech_with_geo-cache_trail.html)

Exhibit B: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vnTgjYYSns>

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Open Space consultant's work-log

9. Announcements, reports from other Committee's Meet

- 11. ~~2nd opening of the meeting to the public~~
- 12. The Committee may, at any time, enter into Executive Session to discuss matters involving litigation, personnel or real estate matters  
Connell moved, Connolly seconded motion to go into executive session
- 13. Adjournment  
Connell moved, Triggs seconded, motion to Adjourn. Motion Passes  
8:30pm

Respectfully submitted  
Bill Connell  
Secretary

# Minutes for Packet