

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes May 20th, 2014**



Melba Battin-P
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Bob Vornlocker-P
Mark Healy-
Randy Jones-EA
Julia Presley-
Ted Chase-7:12
Fran Varacalli (Consultant)

Robert LaCorte-p
John Moon-P
Alice Osipowitz-
Bob Puskas-Chair
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs -P
John Herrling-P
Chris Williams-7:10
Phil Kramer-P

Minutes for Meeting

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision 7:03
2. Introductions/roll call
3. Approval of the April 22, 2014 Minutes, Triggs moved, Schmidt seconded motion to approve minutes with corrections motion passes
4. Financial Report 15,000,000 or so. Balance not officially reported this month
5. 1st opening of the meeting to the public-Mettler moved,/Lacorte seconded motion to open the public. Motion Passes. Seeing no one, Lacorte moved , Triggs seconded motion to close public session motion passes
6. New Business
 - a. Wildlife Deer Management Program 2014-2015
2012-2013 192 Permits of which 137 responded: 187 Harvest 129 Cars
2013-2014 154 Permits of which 119 responded : 175 Harvest 124 Cars
Based on feedback, will review how permits are issued.
No actual issues with hunters, but residents still express concern. A discussion ensued regarding problem areas for cars and deer

Lacorte moved, Herrling seconded , motion to approve two year renewal of Current Program . Motion Passes
 - b. Catalpa Park – Public Hearing Meeting June 30th 7pm
It was suggested the park be built in phases like Middlebush, the farthest area by the bluffs being last and the front part first. And see if Community Garden Possible. The position of the baseball fields was discussed, and the position of the park

Lacorte moved , Herrling seconded a motion Park should be built in (3) phases , Smaller Footprint , and managed Community garden .. Motion Passes
 - c. American Water Charitable Foundation Grant. Grant for a Water feature in park is being applied for. Possibly in Middlebush Park . . Grant is worth \$50,000 or \$150,000 depending award
 - d. Sustainable Raritan Conference and awards June 13th
 - e. Negri-Nepote in the news
Bird Watching April 25 , one of the 10 hots spots for birders in NJ
 - f. Potential Eagle Scout projects; Inman Park and Bunker Hill
-Walk about with Bob Mettler

-Maintaining Veterans Monument Park area in front of municipal building
Tiffany Andrews is working with ROTC , DPW cleaning up. And Fountain Repair

Vornlocker announced wrap up of work in area as it relates to the original plan.

- g. DEP illegal dumping program – 6 mile Run
 - i. Monitoring Twp. Open Space properties –Committee reviewed protecting Open Space Land

7. Old business

- a. Kingston School - update –Tuchman Foundation , made proposal to reuse building
Idea is being reviewed
- b. Duke farms visit – dates and time-Saturday, 28th of June
- c. Historic Signs E. Millstone design – update Moving forward with two signs

Lacorte moved, Williams seconded motion to make three signs, not to exceed \$2,000.00

Motion Passes

- d. Update on Middlebush Park Improvements and Trail
Current phase will be completed end of June.

Vornlocker going on field trip to other areas , to listen to installed sound systems .
to find an optimal solutions

8.

- a. Native grasslands sub-committee – invasive species tree removal project
Too Late due to nesting birds, Moved to August time frame
- b. Saturday, June 7th National Trails Day –Griggstown, Geo Caching, Hoola Hooping .
- c. Canal Walk N Roll, Sunday, May 18th –Estimated attendance 100. It was suggested the next Walk and Roll be advertised more extensively and clarify what its purpose is.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Open Space consultant’s work-log

9. Announcements, reports from other Committee’s

Chris Williams...August take bushes out in Negri, Shade Tree Committee will install new trees

10. 2nd opening of the meeting to the public : Mettler moved.Herrling seconded motion to open to public. Motion Passes

Christine Samini 1900 Crossings Road, Does not want permanent sound system.
Very concerned about sound. Ambient sound already reaches her house.

“Permanent speakers are permanent noise in my life”

Close , Lacorte moved, Connelly seconded motion to close to public. Motion Passes

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

Lacorte Moved, Connolly seconded, motion go into Executive Session Motion Passes

13. Adjournment

Schmidt moved, Connolly motion to close. Motion Passes 9:43

Minutes for Packet