

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes November 18, 2014**



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| Melba Battin-P |
| Robert Mettler-7:14 |
| Bill Connell-P |
| Jack Connolly-EA- |
| Bob Vornlocker- |
| Mark Healy- |
| Randy Jones-P |
| Julia Presley- |
| Ted Chase- |
| Fran Varacalli (Consultant) |

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| Robert Lacorte-P |
| John Moon-P |
| Alice Osipowitz- |
| Bob Puskas-Vice Chair |
| Arnold Schmidt-P |
| David Triggs -P |
| John Herrling-P |
| Chris Williams-P |
| Phil Kramer- |

Dates to Remember

Two **Walk and Roll's 2015** May 17th rain date May 31 & Sept 20th Rain date(s) Sept 27th
Shade Tree Sale, December through March

1. Chairman Jones called to order in accordance with Sunshine law 7:03pm

2. Introductions/roll call

Schmidt requested to adjust agenda regarding Parks motion

3. Approval of the October 21, 2014 minutes

Williams moved, Lacorte seconded motion to approve minutes as amended Motion Passes

4. Financial Report

Varacalli updated report with pending transactions.

It was noted that the completion date for the two open space bonds 2017 and 2022 bonds

Lacorte moved, Williams seconded motion to approve report. Motion passes

5. 1st opening of the meeting to the public

Lacorte moved, Williams seconded motion to open to the public, motion passes

Mary Arace, 14 Gregory Lane

Where are minutes posted? She was led to website.

When was Dunn Gunther deeded to the town and why was this even considered in the recreation when there were restrictions? It was noted that only after the property was discussed that the deed was reviewed for it's potential.

Lacorte moved, Connell seconded, motion to close to the public. Motion passes

6. New Business

- a. Holiday party December 16thPiazza Orsillos
- b. Somerset County Tourism guide 2015

Tiffany wanted to advertise Franklin Township in Somerset County Tourism Guide

Lacorte moved, Herrling seconded motion to advertise in Somerset county tourism guide. Motion Passes

- c. Open Space Consultant Contract 2015

The Open Space Advisory Committee approved the following motion to renew
The contract of FAV Consulting for 2015.

Bob Lacorte moved, Chris Williams seconded the motion to make a recommendation to Council to renew FAV Consulting a one-year non-fair and open contract for CY/FY 2015. Motion passes unanimously.

- d. Audubon Renewal

A discussion ensued regarding renewal the Audubon for Open Space Bird Watching walks

Williams requested the balance with Audubon.

Williams moved, Mettler seconded a motion to continue the contract partnership with Audubon to provide walks in 2015.

Motion Passes with Jones abstaining

Woodcocks in March

Griggstown May 2nd June 13th

- e. Grassland Management Plan

Fran Varacalli and Ted Chase spoke to Wendy Magger of Princeton open space regarding management plan of Negri, and Griggstown. She wanted to know if we could give them a copy of our plan to Princeton. We suggested they request it be requested through the Open Public meetings act. In addition reach out to Audubon.

7. Old business

a. NJ Keep it Green Campaign

State referendum passed, we now have stable source of funding from the Corporate Business Tax. This will generate approx. 200M per year for farmland, open space, historic preservation and stewardship maintenance.

Battin asked if this would mean less funding. Varacalli felt there might be more competition for grants due the to funding method.

b. Butler Road Signage

Large Brown sign, there is no sign, but there is ne being made. It was also suggested we make new sign for Middlebush Park to match other properties

c. American Water Charitable Foundation grants – update – Letters of Support 118 grants. For natural play area. Going to reapply.

d. Kingston School - update

Tuchman Lease agreement . We are waiting for final draft of agreement.

e. Middlebush Park Improvements and Trails - update Construction

The are almost completed . Depending on weather , trails may be completed over the winter or Early Spring .

Triggs asked if shade tree will be putting tree in Middlebush.

Williams responded what ever is left over from Shade Tree Sale (December Through March) can be used for Middlebush

f. Native grasslands sub-committee

Invasive species tree removal project 1. Plan for buffer for neighboring properties Can shade tree buffer Otterbein Property. Melba suggested 5 for 6 trees. Including Blue Spruces. American Holly's

Chairman Jones requested Battin and Williams coordinate to make a recommendation and report to her in writing .

g. At this time Schmidt requested to confirm and clarify the intent of his motion last month regarding the building of Parks. At this time Connell requested we reintroduce the discussion

Lacorte moved, Williams seconded a motion to clarify October Parks Motion. Motion Passes

Schmidt spoke of the October OSAC presentation by Town manager Bob Vornlocker and Councilman Kramer. He requested a comprehensive list of fields available to us. That way when we review the Catalpa plan we have a full understanding. How many teams involved, etc. It was also suggested Mr. Moon, as Recreation Liaison, give regular and formal updates to the Open Space committee.

Schmidt moved, Bob Lacorte Seconded.

A motion to create a document with updated comprehensive information regarding status of all available fields, discussions regarding County fields, List of teams, number of attendees. All relevant information regarding current and future park usage to clarify the discussion on future parks. Motion Passes

8. Consent Agenda Open Space consultant's work-log

9. Announcements, reports from other Committee's

10. 2nd opening of the meeting to the public

Mettler moved, Schmidt seconded motion to open to public

Motion passes.

Seeing no one from the public present, Metter moved Lacorte seconded, a motion to close public session

Motion passes.

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

Lacorte moved, Herrling seconded, a motion to go into executive session. Motion passes.

12. Adjournment

La Corte moved, Mettler seconded, a motion to adjourn.

Motion Passes. 8:45pm meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Bill Connell
Secretary

Post