

**Franklin Township
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
Advisory Committee
Minutes Sept 16, 2014**



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

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

Dates to Remember

Canalfest (3rd Annual) Oct 18th 2014 East Millstone

Two **Walk and Roll's 2015** May 17th rain date May 31 & Sept 20th Rain date Sept 27th

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision 7:04pm
2. Introductions/roll call
3. Approval of the June 17, 2014 minutes

Connolly, Moved, Triggs Seconded motion to approve minute with corrections. All members in favor. Motion Passed.

4. Financial Report- No large financial transactions to the OSTF.

5. 1st opening of the meeting to the public Connolly moved, Moon Seconded motion to open the meeting to the public. All members infavor. Motion passed.

a) Beverly Sarnaela, 94 Edwards Drive, asked if committee has influence over decision-making.

b) Bob Canesnetri 88 Magellan Way-head of homeowner's Association. Spoke against the park and the residents concerns Presented Petition 245 people against the park... Property Values...Its not a park...felt they were tricked

Traffic, Trespassing, Noise, Sewer. June 30th John Clyde said, "Overbuild. Trails recommended it not be build

d) Mary Araperi – 14 Gregory Franklin Park, Concerned about flooding.

- 3) Silvia Temmer 1 Butler Road...Adjacent to park. Referred to letter, please reconsider sports complex.
- f) Kerekes 19 Magellan Way, Plan ignores Master plan. History of smaller plan
- g) Wayne Dibofsky 27 Magellan Way, Feels like South area was left out of process.
- h) Pat Leonard 73 Old Georgetown Road. Concerned that bikes coming into Griggstown and is concerned about the damage.
- I) Maureen Lamelda 48 Cartier drive. Was there any traffic study done.
- j) Andrea Riess 72 Magellan Way Does not know why we need to.
- k) Lillian Cochran 1 Dilean Circle noticed no utilization of the parks. Concerned about flooding.
- L(Benzinger 89 Edward Drive. Wondering if there is need /
- m) Alyssa Friedberg 26 Balboa ...Concerned about Traffic
- n) Wendu Kerekes Repeated specs of fields and Grades
- 0) Walter Grzybowski 26 Balboa Lane. Concerned about traffic. Large amount Of Traffic. Concerned about Crime.
- p) Derek Franz 28 Cartier Drive. Civil Engineer, A survey was sent out. 10% response. 2300 of which 230 responded.
- q) Maria Cysk - Gregory Lane. Did not really understand survey.

Williams moved, Connolly seconded motion to close meeting public. All members in favor. Motion passed.

6. New Business

- i. Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve – Citizen request to allow biking on the preserve
Varacalli reported ... Trails met July 9th . Motion passed 4/2 in favor of biking. At the Trails September meeting after further review the Committee Members revisited the motion. The committee re-voted on the motion and this time it did not pass. 2/4

Puskas reported bike rider violations on negri nepote. A discussion ensued regarding putting cameras on open space land and the committee needs to consider.

Lacorte reported continued dumping at Inman Park.

Lacorte moved /Williams seconded motion recommend security cameras on open space properties. All members in favor. Motion Passed.

- ii. Griggstown Fall Foliage Walk, Saturday, October 11
- iii. Hunting Program Puskas reported Bow Season started. All 100 permits per filled issued.
Complaints/Concerns expressed by residents in the Treptow area led to a meeting to address any concerns. The meeting was helpful and productive. It was noted the broad range of opinions on hunting even in the same neighborhood. Mr. Puskas was complimented by committee for taking proactive position and encouraged to continue this practice as needed.

Deer program updates. Though the deer program is a success it is being reviewed for any refinements to improve it. In discussion it was noted that the state allows fox and coyote hunting but the Franklin program does not. The possibility of expanding the hunting program is being considered. As a sample of the varied opinions, in our discussion, some considered fox a problem while other Pointed out they are natural predators to other nuisance species.

7. Old business

- a. Catalpa Park – Public Hearing follow up from Ted Chase regarding June 30th hearing, everyone was against the park that attended Park was part of Needs and Assessment citizen survey/poll. Council tends to feel there is only a need to build where it is wanted. Several fields have come online since the Needs Assessment. The Twp. Plans to order an LOI to see if we can develop Dunn & Gunther instead of Catalpa Need to find out if any restrictions are put on Dunn and Gunther. Offsetting some of the planned fields on the BOE Claremont property is a consideration but is subject to the BOE referendum passing in December.

Committee Comments :

John Moon reported recreation presented a new scaled down park without park with no lights. For the audience attending it was noted Recreation meets Second Wednesday of every month.

Schmidt. Pointed out additional building since original survey.

Lacorte: Slow Down –Finish one park first before starting another

Puskas: Slow Down

Jones: Spoke personally about the need for a park space in Catalpa area.

Connell: Asked if you can quantify usage through the review of scheduling and permits issued by the Recreation Department

Schmidt Motioned, Puskas seconded motion to make a recommendation to council to place a moratorium on building of Parks built by the town, funded by open space for one year

Williams, Jones, Moon, Nay. Motion Passed.

- b. American Water Charitable Foundation grant – update
Varacalli reported we did not get grant.... we will re-apply in fall
- c. Kingston School - update
Councilman Chase reported. ...Princeton International Properties/Tuchman Foundation took tour of the Kingston building: The hang up is Green Acres regulations only allow conservation and recreation uses. Princeton International cannot state who the tenant will be at this time and is concerned the limitations before committing to the property.
*All buildings bought with open space/green acres funding have a very narrow scope of allowable uses.
- d. Historic Signs E. Millstone design – update
Signs ordered. Earliest Delivery late October
Herrling discussed a possible sign location change.

- e. Middlebush Park Improvements and Trails – update
Engineer and DPW.to meet to compete with red shale
Buffering, the town will erect a white solid fend and maple trees
Moon reported Concession stand is moving forward. The geese are a problem.
Recreation Committee assuming sound system will be shot down, and will have to
use portable system.
- f. Duke Farm visit July 30th update
It was a great and informative visit. Property is 2,500 acres.
The committee spoke about rotating grasslands or Duke Farms
Committee asked to reschedule new visit where hopefully more can attend.
- g. Native grasslands sub-committee
 - i. Invasive species tree removal project
Removing trees on front part of Griggstown property
 - ii. Management plan for both preserves
Varacalli contacting potential consultants to develop management plans

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Open Space consultant's work-log

10. Announcements, reports from other Committee's

Schmidt reported September Invasive species seminar will be reschedule for December

Backyard Composting Seminar Council Chambers Oct 6th 7:30 to 8:30

Trails, Two Walk and Roll's 2015 May 17th rain date May 31 & Sept 20th Rain date Sept 27th

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11. 2nd opening of the meeting to the public No one there so there was no need to open 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
Schmidt Moved, Triggs seconded. Motion to go into Executive Session. All members in favor.
Motion Passed.

13. Adjournment: Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Connolly seconded motion. All members in favor. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted
Bill Connell
Secretary

Post