

**Franklin Township  
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund  
Advisory Committee  
Minutes November 17, 2015**



Melba Battin-P
<b>Cecile</b> Maclvor P
Bill Connell-P 7:15
Jack Connolly P
Bob Vornlocker-
Mark Healy-
Randy Jones-7:10
Nancy LaCorte-A
Ted Chase-A
Fran Varacalli (Consultant) P

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

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision 7:05pm
2. Introductions/roll call
3. Approval of the September 15th minutes-None Provided
4. Financial Report  
Current OSTF Balance \$16,539.00
5. 1st opening of the meeting to the public  
 B. Puskas made a motion to open the meeting to the public, B. Lacorte seconded. All members in favor. Motion Passes  
 Tom Gale and Barbara Lawrence both members of the Twp. Historic Preservation Committee. Honeyman House Canal Rd. built in 1740. John Honeyman lived there and had an interesting story. Honeyman was believed to be a spy for George Washington. Wendy Kennedy , a Honeyman Historian, has been consulted . Gale provided overview. The house is for sale. And would like OSAC to recommend the Town purchase land and subdivide the house. Property already on the state and national record but has no impact on the private owner. Councilman Chase concerned about this house - How much of original house is still there? Library addition – most of home is still intact - No one in house for 3 years -is not neglected- heated in winter has house and shed
- B. Puskas made a motion to close the public meeting session. J. Connelly seconded. All members in favor. Motion Passes.
6. New Business
  - a. Deer Management, Presented by Dr. Michael Van Clef (Hopewell Township)  
Doctorate in ecology from Rutgers.

-Last Franklin Deer Census, 1999

*Survey Options:* Infrared Helicopter, Resident Observation Survey , Planting seedlings to track damage

*Statistics:* Franklin above average at 1 harvest per 10 acres of land, but could attain 1 antlerless deer per 5 acres of land

*Methods:* Increasing Permit Goals of 2 Antlerless Deer per 10 acres . Van Clef opined that less hunters with better skills is more productive than more casual hunters. Farmers should inquire( if they do not already) acquiring special depredation hunting permits for crops damaged by deer.

*Reporting:* Create a web based/smart phone reporting system to collect more refined data. Integrate more Health Data into statistics regarding Lyme Disease.

*Misc Info:* Currently the Antlerless Deer Harvest is 78%. It costs \$200.00 to process a harvested deer.

b. NJ Invasive Strike Team – F. Varacalli asked if Franklin Twp. Should consider establishing a volunteer team to search and locate emerging invasive species. The Committee recommended that educating landowners against planting invasive plants by promoting the brochure from the NJ Invasive Strike Team has available. F. Varacalli will post on Twp. Web site and include in the Twp. Newsletter. It was also noted that educating landscaping companies to not sell invasive species is important.

c. Twp. Committee end of year get together –Several locations suggested  
7. Old business

a. Kingston School – update Tuchman lease is signed!

b. Native grasslands sub-committee update F. Varacalli stated the grassland plans are in order.

c. Bunker Hill House lease and Env. Center. Looking at lease agreement and negotiate new terms. Will seek OSAC recommendation at a future meeting.

d. Vacant land review-Recommendation to make a GIS map that shows the remaining vacant land remaining in town.

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

9. Announcements, reports from other Committee's

Hageman House – B. Connell requested a clarification of the criteria to decide Historic properties purchases.

A. Schmidt , on behalf of D. Triggs, commented that as one of the authors of the Open Space Ordinance he (D. Triggs) never envisioned The Open Space Trust Fund to pay for paving parking lots at active recreation parks. It was commented that development of active recreation parks includes amenities like pavement( for roads and parking) and those costs are included as the Open Space Trust Fund Ordinance under recreation.

10. 2nd opening of the meeting to the public

C. McIvor made a motion to open the meeting to the public. A. Schmidt seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion Passes.

Tom Gale, 14 Ford Avenue ...

Explained Books from Franklin Inn located in Kingston School are moldy and should be thrown out.

Explained history of Historic grants provided by OSTF. Then historic home repairs were specifically added to the OSTF annual budget.

States the Twp. Historic Commission is not being fully consulted on Historic Home repairs by Township

C. McIvor made a motion to close the meeting to the public. A. Schmidt seconded. All members in favor. Motion Passes.

11. Adjournment

A. Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. B. Connell seconded. All members in favor.

Motion Passes. Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Connell  
Secretary

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