

Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee
Tuesday, December 6, 2005
Minutes

- 1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.** At 7:21, no quorum was yet present, so Chairman Jones asked members of the public if there was anything that they wanted to say to those members present. Dominick Abbatiello, Old Georgetown Road asked why the Ten Mile Run map was called the Ten Mile Run Greenway. Chairman Jones explained. At 7:35, a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law.
- 2. Introductions/roll call.** Present were members Jones, Clyde, Chase, Battin and Orsini. Also present was Consultant Loos. Arriving later was Osipowitz.
- 3. Meeting open to the public.** Richard Olson, Brentwood Ave., Griggstown, stated his concerns that the Bunker Hill open space is open to the general public and to hunters. He stated that he did not think this was a good policy. He stated that advising people to wear orange was not a sufficient safety precaution. Jones explained the current policy and rationale for permitting hunting. Loos explained that the hunting policy will again be reviewed in March or April and Jones encouraged Mr. Olson to come to that meeting. Mr. Olson then asked if land that is purchased as open space could ever be sold to developers. Chase explained that once land is purchased as open space, it must remain as open space in perpetuity. Orsini moved and Chase seconded a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of the October 18, 2005 minutes.** Battin asked that the draft minutes be corrected to remove the comment that she arrived late. Orsini moved and Clyde seconded a motion to approve the October 18, 2005 minutes with the above correction. Motion carried.
- 5. Financial Report.** Loos reported that there is \$10,879,795.43 in the open space trust fund as of December 1, 2005. However, he explained that approximately \$239,000 was spent on the Marshall farm easement purchase and that is not yet reflected in the report. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.
- 6. Consultants report.** Loos reported that the driveway and parking lot in Griggstown were constructed but the recent heavy rain caused significant erosion and the contractor is returning to take corrective action. He also reported that the Barn Swallow nesting structure has been completed Griggstown site. Clyde asked that Loos send a request to Council to give a commendation to the two Eagle scouts (John Clyde Jr., and Dan Bobev) who have completed Eagle Scout projects in 2005. Loos reported that the Ten Mile Run Greenway hiking trails mapping project has been complete and that he is working on applying for a \$25,000 trails grant. He also reported that the Township received a \$200,000 grant from Somerset County for the Scott purchase. He reported that there was damage done to the Negri parking lot area by a neighbor but that arrangements have been made for remediation. Finally, he reported that Osipowitz and township Manager Daly were going to a meeting with Green Acres to discuss possible uses for the Kingston School property.
- 7. Calendar Resolution for 2006.** Orsini moved and Clyde seconded a motion to approve the attached calendar resolution establishing meeting dates in 2006. Solicited volunteers

for the grant review subcommittee, which will need to begin its review in December. Clyde, Kaiser and Connolly all volunteered and Jones accepted them as the subcommittee. It was suggested that Sherwood (not present) might also be appointed. Clyde indicated that he would step down if Sherwood wanted to serve. (At this time, Osipowitz arrived.)

8. **New Business.** Clyde reported on the activity of the Trails Advisory Committee. Its focus, he reported, is finding bike trail connections from the Somerset section of the Township to the Colonial Park/Canal area. Its second focus is to connect the northern and southern sections of the Township on a route that would parallel Canal road. Finally, the committee would like to find a way to connect Treptow Rd. with Weston Rd. Orsini also asked the TAC to look at connecting Middlebush Park with New Brunswick Road. Clyde reported that there is a vacancy on the committee and moved that the OSAC recommend to the Council that Dominick Abbatiello be appointed to fill the vacancy. Orsini seconded the motion and it carried. Orsini and Chase reported on the Planning Board's efforts to meet COAH requirements.
9. **2nd opening of the meeting to the public.** Orsini moved and Clyde seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
 - Pat Leonard, Old Georgetown Road in Griggstown suggested that the Township look into using the Kingston School for seniors to have a meeting place in that part of the Township. Upon a motion by Clyde, seconded by Orsini, a motion carried to end the public comment period and to go into Executive Session to discuss property negotiations.
10. **Adjournment.** At 9:35 PM the committee came out of Executive Session and upon a motion by Clyde, seconded by Orsini, the OSAC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Loos
Secretary/Consultant*

RESOLUTION
OF THE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW
JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the Laws of the State of New Jersey, Section 13 thereof, requires the public body at least once a year to provide notice of a schedule of regular meetings of said public body to be held during the succeeding year, and;

WHEREAS, said Act further requires in Section 3 (d) thereof, that adequate notice as required by said Act be mailed, telephoned, telegrammed or hand delivered to at least two newspapers, which newspapers shall be designated by the public likelihood of informing the public of such meetings, one of which shall be the official newspaper, and.

WHEREAS, said Act in Section 14 thereof, further provides that any person may request that a public body mail to him copies of any regular meeting schedule or revision and any advance written notice described in Section 3 (d) of said Act of any regular, special or rescheduled meeting of such body upon payment by such person of a reasonable sum if any has been fixed by resolution of the public body to cover the cost of providing such notice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 6th day of December 2005 by the Open Space Advisory Committee of the Township of Franklin, Somerset County, New Jersey that the regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee of the Township of Franklin, Somerset County, New Jersey during the year 2006 will be held at the Municipal Building, 475 DeMott Lane at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

January 17, 2006

February 21, 2006

March 21, 2006

April 18, 2006

May 16, 2006

June 20, 2006

July 18, 2006

August 15, 2006

September 19, 2006

October 17, 2006

December 12, 2006

VOTE ON RESOLUTION this 6th day of December 2005

:

FOR: Jones, Clyde, Chase, Battin and Orsini.

AGAINST: None.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos, Secretary

Franklin Township OSAC
Executive Session Minutes
December 6, 2005

1. Loos reported that if all pending purchases were to be completed, there would only be \$1,717,608 left in the trust fund.
2. The committee reviewed a request from the Township Clerk to review a request from Fred and Roberta Orange to purchase township-owned land on Delmonico Avenue. Jones reported that he and Loos conducted a site visit and that they were recommending that there was no reason, from an open space perspective to sell this wooded parcel. Upon a motion by Clyde, seconded by Orsini, a motion passed that recommends to the Council the following: That from an open space perspective, the OSAC sees no need to sell this land, but if the Council has other needs, such as providing affordable housing, then OSAC is open to those needs being met.
3. At 9:35, Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to leave Executive Session. Motion carried.