

**Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, October 17, 2006**

1. **Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.** At 7:35, a quorum was present and Vice-Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law.
2. **Introductions/roll call.** Present were members Clyde, Danile, Moon, Connolly, Sherwood and Battin. Arriving later were Chase, Orsini, Osipowitz and Kanarek. Also present was Consultant Loos.
3. **Approval of the September 19, 2006.** Clyde moved and Battin seconded a motion that was passed to approve the September 19, 2006 minutes. (At this point Chase arrived.)

4. Financial Report. Loos reviewed a financial report, as follows:

<u>Bonds</u>	Original amount of bonds	Balance available in bonds
Open Space I (includes the anticipated sale of an additional \$16,500,000 in bonds in late 2006)	\$14,400,000.00	\$2,491,161.94
Open Space II (includes the anticipated sale of an additional \$16,500,000 in bonds in late 2006)	<u>\$26,171,150.00</u>	<u>\$15,103,425.55</u>
	\$40,571,150.00	\$17,594,587.49

<u>Reserve for future use</u>	
Reserve For Future Use Represents All Unexpended Tax Revenues From Prior Years Along With All Other Revenues Collected (i.e. interest, grants & lease payments)	\$6,917,299.02

Note: An amount to be determined of the Reserve for future use will be pledged to payment of additional debt authorized. The exact amount to will be determine when the bonds are sold but it is anticipated that it will be in excess of \$900,000.

TOTAL \$24,511,886.51

A motion was made by Clyde and seconded by Danile to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

5. Public portion. Clyde moved and Moon seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried. Seeing no public present who wanted to speak a motion was made by Battin and seconded by Clyde to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

6. Historic grant for 2007. Meadows Foundation President, John Mullen and Executive Director Mark Else were invited to participate in a discussion of how the historic grant program has been run in the past and to discuss possible ways to improve the program. (At this point Osipowitz, Kanarek and Orsini arrived.) After considerable discussion Clyde moved and Danile seconded a motion to revise the grant process for the upcoming year such that the grant application can be submitted in a simpler, less bureaucratic, narrative format; that after receiving the grant application, the OSAC will arrange a subcommittee meeting with representatives of the applicant, on the site of the historic property; that the grant applicant will arrange for an independent, historic architect (or similar professional) who would not be the contractor doing the work to be present at the meeting to discuss the grant application and to answer any questions the OSAC may have regarding the grant; and that if the applicant is awarded the grant the applicant will arrange a final site visit to the property whenever funded work is completed. Motion carried.

7. Loos Consulting Report for October 2006.

- A. Property management
 - a. Kiosks—brochures printed.
 - b. Street addresses obtained for the Negri-Nepote Native Grassland Preserve, the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve, Bunker Hill Natural Area and the Memorial Forest Sites.
 - c. Eagle Scout projects-- see attached.
- B. Township awarded \$25,000 under the 2006 Recreational Trails grant program for construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Ten Mile Run stream (Bunker Hill Natural Area)
- C. The NJAS-led landowner outreach program held on October 4 was successful in that several landowners came to the workshop and several have indicated an interest in the various conservation programs that were outlined.
- D. NJAS guided walks in 2006 and possible continuation of walks in 2007. The committee discussed the attendance at the 2006 walks on open space and agreed to brainstorm at a future meeting ideas to increase attendance in 2007.
- E. Reminder: Fall foliage walk on 10/21 from 10 AM to Noon.

8. Old Business—Kumar property on West Point Ave. The committee discussed the need to clean up the captioned property and decided to invite community leaders to the December meeting to get their input on what, if anything, should be done to improve the property now that the township owns it. A clean-up day will be announced at the December meeting. Loos was directed to prepare a notice to be distributed to the neighbors inviting them to the December meeting.

9. New Business—redevelopment areas. Loos announced that Trap Rock Industries is going to donate the two houses at the base of Old Georgetown Road to the

Township. The committee then discussed the Onka property and following this discussion, Sherwood moved and Orsini seconded a motion to not use open space trust fund dollars to purchase the garage areas (as distinguished from the Franklin Inn area) due to environmental concerns. Motion carried.

The committee then discussed the Laurie Rubber property and Loos indicated that he thought that the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission would not approve any new buildings on this site due to a restriction on new building within 200 feet of the Canal. Because of this, the OSAC took no formal action regarding this property.

10. New Business—Recreational Trails Grant Resolution. Orsini moved and Sherwood seconded a motion to approve the attached Trails Resolution. Motion carried.

11. New Business—Deer enclosure demonstration project. John Clyde introduced Eagle Scout candidate Alex Bancone who expressed interest in doing the deer enclosure demonstration project. The committee discussed possible locations and chase suggested the Mellis Woods area. Loos was directed to discuss this with NJ Audubon and come up with a good location and to then follow up with Bancone.

12. New Business—Recreation. Alice Osipowitz discussed the Recreation Council's desires for expanded parks and park equipment in the township. She updated the committee on the work of Schoor-DePalma Engineering which is studying possible sites for a southern regional park. The committee expressed that they would be sensitive to the Recreation Council's concerns.

13. Executive session. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the status of property negotiations. Motion carried. At 10:40 pm, the committee came out of Ex. Session.

14. Adjournment. At 10:40 PM the committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant

COMPLETED EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Project	Scout/Troop	Project Status	Target Completion Date*
Barn Swallow Structure at GNGP	Dan Bobev/113		
Butterfly Garden at GNGP	Jeremy Peters/113		
Trail Construction (Simpson Brook Trail) at GNGP	John Clyde Jr/113		
Trail Construction (Bluebird Trail and Sourland View Trail) at GNGP	Andrew Rath/195		
Kiosk, GNGP	Mike Bignell/195		
Kiosk, NNGP	S. Minnihan/113		
Wildlife Viewing Blind, Phase 1, NNGP	Justin Kanaps/113		

ACTIVE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Project	Scout/Troop	Project Status	Target Completion Date*
Wildlife Viewing Blind Phase II, NNGP	Tim Bodner/113	Blind walls are up, final work to be completed by 10/22	October 2006
Trail Construction (Upper Woods Trail) GNGP	David Dalton/113	Dalton received NJAS project approval awaiting Scout approval as of 9/27 – he anticipates completing the project this fall.	Fall 2006
Trail Construction – BHNA		No scout interest for this site – J. Loos suggested that Public Works will take over should there be a lack of interest	
Kiosk, BHNA	Doug Bodner/113	10/7 Doug sent email requesting site meeting – he is working on a proposal with C. Carey	
Demonstration Habitats with Deer Enclosures		Pending – need to select site	Alex Bancone
Bridge Construction		J. Loos has applied for a trails grant to handle this project and permitting process	
Interpretive Trail, (Bluebird and Sourland Trails) GNGP		Presented this again to Cayce Carey who has another scout in need of a project (10/10/06) – blend this with Barn Swallow Interpretive Material?	
Barn Swallow Interpretive Material		This project is not sufficient for Eagle Scout project as is....	
Natural Park Benches – GNGP	Michael Rath/195 Travis New/195	Rath is working on proposal with Cayce Carey as of 10/10/06	
Natural Park Benches – NNGP		Presented this again to Cayce Carey who has another scout in need of a project (10/10/06)	
Natural Park Benches – BHNA		Presented this again to Cayce Carey who has another scout in need of a project (10/10/06)	

**Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee
RESOLUTION In Support of Franklin Township applying for the
2007 Recreational Trails Program Grant**

WHEREAS The Township has authorized the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) to make recommendations regarding the development of open space property owned by the Township; and

WHEREAS there is a potential source of grant funding for developing trails on open space; and

WHEREAS the OSAC has received notification that the State of NJ's Office of Natural Lands Management is accepting applications for the Federal Recreational Trails Program; and

WHEREAS the OSAC is supportive of the construction of a multi-use trail along the former Millstone and New Brunswick railroad bed through the property commonly known as the "Galdi railroad bed" and through the adjacent property commonly known as the "Memorial Forest railroad bed"; and

WHEREAS both of the above described open space properties are owned by the Township; and

WHEREAS these properties, if developed into multi-use trails would provide a continuous trail beginning at South Middlebush Road and extending all the way west to the wide shoulder along the side of Elizabeth Avenue; and

WHEREAS it is the OSAC's opinion that such a trail would enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Franklin by providing a trail that would allow users to go from the more populated Somerset and Middlebush portions of the township to the main road that leads to a large county park—Colonial Park; and

WHEREAS the OSAC is interested in working on developing this trail with sensitivity to any neighbor's concerns regarding buffering; and

WHEREAS this potential trail would take considerable dollars to construct; and

WHEREAS this trail is a good candidate for funding under the Recreational Trails Program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township's OSAC hereby recommends to the Franklin Township Council that the Township apply for \$25,000 in funding for construction of the under the 2007 Recreational Trails Program.

For: Clyde, Danile, Moon, Connolly, Sherwood, Battin, Chase, Orsini, Osipowitz and Kanarek Against: None
Dated: October 17, 2006

**Franklin Township OSAC
Executive Session Minutes
October 17, 2006**

The committee was updated on the likely status of the trust fund following closing on all pending purchases:

Balance currently available from OSTF bonds to purchase property	\$24,511,886.51
Total anticipated Township costs: Open Space & PIG pending projects:	\$13,181,350
Estimated balance in OSTF after all pending purchases are completed	\$11,330,537

The committee then discussed the possibility of working to preserve the following properties:

- Collins on /Rt. 27. Loos advised the committee that this property located in Block 5, Lots 70 and 70Q is approximately 30.7 acres, has one house on it, is zoned RR3 and is on the market for \$1.7 million. Orsini moved and Clyde seconded a motion to get appraisals on this property. Motion carried with Connolly, Danile, Sherwood, Orsini and Battin voting for the motion and Chase, Clyde and Moon voting against the motion.
- Madden property on Rt. 518. Loos explained that Peter Madden owns approximately 18 acres and has filed a PIG application to preserve this as farmland. He also has an option to purchase 3 adjacent lots, each being about three acres. He wants \$43,000 per acre for these three lots and wants the right to put one house on these 9 acres. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to NOT get appraisals on this property.
- Chrin was discussed by the committee but no action was taken.

Chase moved and Orsini seconded a motion to leave Ex. Session. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant