

Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 20, 2005
Minutes

1. **Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.** At 7:06 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, Connolly, Danile, Puskas, Moon, Chase, Clyde and Battin. Also present was Consultant Loos. Arriving later were Orsini and Sherwood.
3. **Approval of the June 21, 2005 minutes.** Danile moved and Puskas seconded a motion to approve the June 21, 2005 minutes. Motion carried.
4. **Financial Report.** The financial report was reviewed. There is \$10,939,427.88 in the open space trust account. Upon a motion by Danile, seconded by Puskas, a motion carried to approve the minutes.
5. **1st opening of the meeting to the public.** Puskas moved and Connolly seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
 - Doris Bennett, 62 Bennetts Lane asked the committee to consider a request from the residents of Block 123 to purchase and then to create a pocket park in lots 13 and 14. She told the committee that there is an abandoned house on the property and that the Township owns two lots in the rear of these lots. The property is currently an eyesore, she said, and having small parks in the more urbanized portions of the township is consistent with the goals of the OSAC.
 - (At this point Orsini arrived)
 - Laura Payne, secretary of the Macedonia Church addressed the committee and stated that the church is also in Block 123 and that it is adjacent to lots 13 and 14. She indicated that the church has attempted to purchase lots 13 and 14 for over six years, but the owner has not been cooperative. She indicated that the church would still like to purchase the property.
 - Gail Caldwell, 38 Fuller St., supported the idea of having a park in lots 13 and 14.
 - Mary Barry, 31 Camner Ave., stated her support for the purchase of lots 13 and 14 for the purpose of a small park. She stated that it was time for the township to do something positive for the residents of Block 123.
 - C. Throckmorton, 591 Somerset St., supported the concept of a park on lots 13 and 14.
 - Mary Barry stated that she hopes she is not wasting her time on this.
 - Pat Leonard, Old Georgetown Road in Griggstown asked questions about equestrian use of the Griggstown open space. She stated that she and others have used this tract for over 30 years and that it is used as a way for equestrians to get to the Canal towpath. Randy Jones suggested that she attend a Trails Advisory Committee meeting and suggest that the TAC look into this matter.
 - (At this point Sherwood arrived.)
 - Jones explained that if lots 13 and 14 were purchased as open space, the church could not use the lots as a parking lot.

- Aaron Craelius addressed the committee and explained that he and others would like the township to utilize at least a ¼-acre, or more, of open space for a demonstration of sustainable land use--landscaping/agriculture. He handed out a document that addressed this issue. He explained that a sustainable use would include use of native plants, drought-resistant plants; little or no herbicide; and that plants would be edible. He stated that he and others would be willing to work on this project and asked for the committee's support. He was directed by Chairman Jones to reach out to the Meadows Foundation, as he also suggested that there be programs associated with this for which a building would be useful. He will come back to next month's meeting with more details and the committee will place this on its agenda in October.
 - Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
- 6. Hunting on open space property.** Puskas reported that the hunting subcommittee met and has instituted the white-tailed deer management plan on three open space parcels: LeCalkon in the Cedar Grove Lane/Wilson Road area, the Negri-Nepote-Leni tract and the Ten Mile Run Greenway. He stated that three bow permits were given out for the Cedar Grove Lane/Wilson Road area, 10 permits for the Negri-Nepote-Leni tract and 51 for the Ten Mile Run Greenway. He also reported that the Griggstown tract's westernmost fields, about 50 acres, were made a safety zone. He also indicated that on the Negri-Nepote-Leni tract and the Ten Mile Run Greenway there would be no hunting on Saturdays during the months of September, October and November. Beginning in December, there would be Saturday hunting. By state law, no hunting is ever allowed on Sundays. About 40-50% of the permits went to Township residents. John Moon suggested that the committee think about ways to encourage more township residents to get the permits. Clyde suggested that next year we advertise the program in the township newsletter. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion, which carried, to approve the hunting Rules and Regulations, as follows:

**Hunting Guidelines for Franklin Township Open Space
Property
2005-2006 Deer Management Program
Rules and Regulations**

1. Only hunters who have obtained a Franklin Township issued hunting permit are permitted to hunt on township-owned land.
2. All State and local regulations pertaining to parks and to hunting apply, including specific season dates and bag limits
3. All tree stands must be portable and removed two weeks after hunting season closes.
4. Two non-antlered deer must be taken from your approved township-owned hunting area before a buck may be taken from the area.

5. Hunting shall only be on the property that is listed on the permit.
6. A licensed adult must accompany all hunters under the age of 16.
7. All hunting results will be reviewed. This will help us determine if the hunter will be invited to hunt again in following years.
8. Vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas (map will be provided)
9. Only deer may be hunted; any other hunting is strictly prohibited.
10. Hunters are only authorized to be on the property for which they have been issued a permit, and are responsible for knowing where they are at all times. Each hunter's permit must be prominently displayed whenever the hunter is on the property.
11. Target practice is prohibited.
12. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the property is prohibited. Littering is prohibited.
13. Violation of any special condition or any applicable State law or local regulation will result in the immediate loss of hunting privileges on the property and will also subject the hunter to any applicable penalties.
14. Hunting is restricted to the portions of the properties designated as open to deer hunting (maps will be provided).
15. Hunters are not permitted to hunt or possess a loaded firearm within 450 feet of any building or school playground.
16. Hunting may begin one half hour before sunrise and must end one half hour after sunset.
17. Hunting is not permitted on Sundays.
18. Hunting parking Permit must be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle.
19. Hunting permit number must be clearly displayed on any tree stand. Failure to display the permit number will result in removal of and discarding of the stand.
20. No fires of any kind.
21. The attached "2005-2006 Hunter's Report" must be completed and returned to the Township in order to be considered for participation in obtaining a permit for the following year.

7. Review of Township Master Plan. Cheryl Bergailo, of Schoor DePalma was introduced. She is working for the Planning Board on updating the Master Plan. The committee listened to a status report on the project, asked numerous questions.

8. Historic grant program for FY 2006. Loos reviewed the status of this project. He indicated that he had updated the grant guidelines and application for the FY 2006

program. The only substantive change that he was proposing was to add a provision for another category of eligible applicant which would be a private non-profit organization that is not a 501.3(c). He indicated that there may be organizations that are exempt from taxation under other provisions of the IRS tax code. The language that he is proposing is as follows:

A charitable organization that is exempt from federal income taxation if the organization is managing a historic property such as a cemetery or other property that has public access if the property is owned by the charitable organization. Such charitable organizations that submit applications must include documentation of their tax-exempt status. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to add this concept to the grant guidelines. Motion carried.

- 9. Hiring of open space staff.** Loos explained that the township has hired two additional public works employees and that they will be working on open space projects three days per week. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to support this. Motion carried.
- 10. Pedestrian Bridge over the Ten Mile Run stream.** Loos reported on a field trip, attended by Connolly, Clyde, Orsini and Danile, during which these OSAC members looked at the need for a stream crossing in order to continue the trail from the Bunker Hill area over to the Catalpa property. All members who went on the field trip agreed that this was needed. Loos explained that getting a bridge across this area will require DEP permits, engineering work to obtain the permits and engineering work to design the bridge. Cost estimates on design and permitting have run as high as \$25,000—although Loos indicated that Troy Ettl, from NJAS spoke to DEP and that he thought that it could be done for less. Danile moved and Connolly seconded a motion to approve Loos and Ettl (NJAS) to work on securing the necessary permits and design work and to make sure that a least three quotes were obtained from engineering firms, prior to granting a contract for this work to an engineering firm. Motion carried.
- 11. Civil Solutions contract.** Loos explained that Civil Solutions currently has a contract for up to \$10,000 for mapping services for open space projects. This contract has almost been exhausted. He suggested that the OSAC recommend that the Township award another contract for another \$10,000 so that this important service could continue. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to recommend that \$10,000 contract be awarded to Civil Solution. Motion carried.
- 12. Trails Advisory Committee (TAC).** Jones and Clyde reported that the TAC had its first meeting.
- 13. 2nd opening of the meeting to the public.** Orsini moved and Chase seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
 - Doris Bennett, 62 Bennetts Lane asked the committee about the north side of Bennetts lane. Loos explained that the OSAC has considered recommending preservation of this side of the road.
 - Orsini reported on the historic and significant tree program run by the STC.
 - 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.
- 14. Adjournment.** At 10:45 PM the committee came out of Executive Session and upon a motion that carried, made by Danile and seconded by Connolly, the committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary

Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 20, 2005
Executive Session Minutes

- 1. Review of “Pending and Possible purchases” report.** Loos reviewed a portion of the financial report that showed that if the Township were to purchase all pending projects, then there will be less than \$1 million left in the Open Space Trust Fund. He also reported that the trust fund has capacity for about another \$5 million on bonding.
- 2. Request from community to purchase 30 Booker St.** The committee discussed this property and the nearby vacant lot located at Block 125.01, Lot 49, owned by the UNITED NATIONAL BANK. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to send the matter of residents’ request for a pocket park in this neighborhood to the Recreation Council and the Redevelopment Agency for their review and recommendation. If these two groups want this, they should let OSAC know and OSAC will give it further consideration. Motion carried.
- 3. Request to sell township-owned land—74 Ambrose Street.** The committee discussed this property and thought that this lot has no significant open space value. Orsini moved and Sherwood seconded a motion to inform the Township that OSAC would be supportive of selling this lot with a deed restriction prohibiting construction of any dwelling on the parcel unless it was combined with other parcels to create a conforming lot. Motion carried.
- 4. Request to sell township-owned land—Block 505, Lots 2-6 and 16-19.** The committee discussed this property and thought that this lot has no significant open space value. Clyde moved and Danile seconded a motion to inform the Township that the OSAC does not think that this lot has any significant open space value and that if the Township wants to sell it, OSAC has no objections. Motion carried.
- 5. Lemantovich, also known as Wegner.** Loos explained that he has a meeting scheduled with the owners of this property to discuss sale to the township.

At 10:45 the committee left the Executive Session and returned to Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary