

**Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, September 19, 2006**

1. **Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.** At 7:30, a quorum was present and Chairman Jones called the meeting to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law.
2. **Introductions/roll call.** Present were members Jones, Danile, Moon, Connolly, Orsini, Chase, Clyde and Battin. Arriving later were Osipowitz and Kanarek. Also present was Consultant Loos.
3. **Approval of the June 20, 2006.** A motion was passed to approve the June 20, 2006 minutes.
4. **Financial Report.** Loos reviewed a financial report, as follows:

Bonds	Original amount of bonds	Balance available in bonds	Total available to purchase property
Bond Ordinance 3256, 3293, 3369, 3401	\$14,400,000.00	\$2,491,161.94	
Bond Ordinance 3155, 3183, 3228 & 3364	\$9,671,150.00	\$1,101,753.01	
Bond Ordinance, July 2006 (Bonds likely to be sold in Nov., '06)	<u>\$16,500,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,500,000.00</u>	-
	\$40,571,150.00	\$20,092,914.95	\$20,092,914.95

<u>Grants</u>	
Green Acres--Negri	\$600,000.00
Green Acres--Negri	\$600,000.00
Green Acres--Negri	\$260,000.00
Green Acres--Negri	\$300,000.00
Somerset County--Scott	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,960,000.00

Unexpended balance of open space trust fund tax revenue left in trust fund (includes all revenue sources such as interest, lease payments and unexpended from previous years) except those identified above	\$5,963,803.81
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Down payment on 2006 bond purchase	-\$906,597.92
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Kumar property on Westpoint Ave. -\$1,692,000.00

Total:	\$25,418,120.84
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A motion was made by Clyde and seconded by Connolly to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

At 7:45, a motion was made by Orsini and seconded by Chase to go into Executive Session to discuss pending open space purchases and the status of negotiations. At 7:52, the committee came out of Executive Session.

5. Old Business—Kumar property. A discussion of the Kumar property on West Point Ave. took place. The committee was advised that the property (4 acres) has been purchased. The Chairman asked Loos to bring to the October OSAC meeting several possible courses of action regarding cleanup and use/site plans.

6. Public portion. No public present wanted to speak so the meeting was not opened to the public at this time.

7. Loos Consulting Report for September 2006.

- a. Property management
 - i. Fencing—completed at the Negri-Nepote Native Grassland Preserve, the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve, Bunker Hill Natural Area and the Memorial Forest Sites;
 - ii. Memorial Forest—parking lot, tree-planting areas and trail will be laid out this fall;
 - iii. Native Grasslands project—all the grass has been planted and is growing
 - iv. Kiosks—brochures printed
- b. Open Space and preserved land inventory being updated
- c. Open space website has been updated and improved
- d. Projects on Franklin Township Open Space that are pending or completed (C) are as follows:

I. Griggstown

1. Remove trash--multiple sites in forest
2. Remove illegal tree stands
3. Block ATV entrance upper field with fencing
4. Install plexi-glass covers on kiosk (was done, but needs to be re-done due to vandalism)
5. Construct and mark the Beach trail (Eagle Scout)
6. Spread small stone on top of 2-inch stone
7. Remove invasive bushes and vines around edges
8. Erect entrance sign
9. Mow upper (eastern) fields—Spring of 2007
10. Improve stream crossing #2
11. Make and install brochure boxes

12. Install kiosk rules and warnings
13. Construct and install benches
14. *Adjust trail to avoid wet portions of trail in the southeastern corner-C*
15. *Remove debris from around parking area-C*
16. *Erect and repair fence-C*
17. *Post edges-C*
18. *Improve stream crossing #1-C*
19. *Weed whack driveway edge--C*
20. *Weed whack entrance to woods trail--C*
21. *Design plexi-glass cover for kiosk—C*
22. *Remove sign from tree swallow structure and install sign on kiosk—C*
23. *Mow trails-C*

II. Bunker Hill

1. Install field trail markers
2. Weed whack forest trails (red and blue trails)
3. Remove debris from entrance parking lot
4. Deal with stream crossing
5. Remove invasive bushes and vines around edges
6. Erect entrance sign
7. Erect pedestrian crossing sign
8. Mow fields—Spring 2007
9. Construct kiosk
10. Install kiosk rules and warnings
11. Construct and install benches
12. *Post edges-C*
13. *Erect fence around parking lot-C*
14. *Remove fallen tree from path-C*
15. *Weed whack trail entrances to the woods-C*
16. *Mow trails-C*
17. *Cut and remove fallen tree across trail-C*

III. Negri Nepote

1. Cut down tree at entrance to Negri parking area
2. Erect entrance sign
3. Clean up of the Negri forest
4. Fill in ruts in berm
5. Install plexi-glass covers on kiosk (was completed but needs to be re-done)
6. Get and install bird boxes
7. Make and install brochure boxes
8. Construct and install benches
9. Install kiosk rules and warnings
10. *Post edges-C*
11. *Weed whack top and rear of berm near wetlands--C*

12. *Widen the Bennetts Lane trail, remove debris and make it mower accessible--C*
13. *Weed whack poison ivy & spread mulch on Bennetts Lane trail-C*
14. *Erect fence around parking lot--C*
15. *Install trail markers on trails--C*
16. *Clear trail through small wooded area in southwest corner of property-C*
17. *Construct trail through forest/scrubland—C*
18. *Make trail around wetlands—C*
19. *Create pedestrian trail beginning at the entrance to Bennetts Lane--C*
20. *Erect fence at Bennetts Lane pedestrian entrance--C*
21. *Design & construct small trail platforms to cross wet areas in Leni area-C*
22. *Design plexi-glass cover for kiosk—C*
23. *Remove illegal tree stands-C*
24. *Mow trails-C*
25. *Re-rout trail into grass on hill going from driveway to wetlands-C*

IV. Memorial Forest

1. Remove illegal tree stands
2. Remove trash
3. Pond cleanup
4. Post edges
5. Mark and maintain trails
6. Remove invasive bushes and vines around edges
7. Spread wood chips on trails
8. Construct entrance area
9. Improve the driveway going to parking lot
10. Construct parking area
11. Layout tree planting areas
12. *Erect fence-C*

V. Galdi Railroad bed

1. Clear five foot trail
2. Remove any debris
3. Post edges as open space

VI. Scott

1. Construct trails
2. Spread wood chips on trails
3. Implement some site plans such as pond cleanup
4. Erect entrance sign
5. Remove invasive bushes and vines around edges
6. *Add stone to pot holes in Scott driveway-C*

8. Old Business—NJ Audubon outreach to landowners. The committee was advised that NJAS is conducting a landowner conservation workshop on October 4, 2006. All are invited.

9. New Business--Historic grant for 2006—07. The committee discussed the grant program for the coming year. (At this point Osipowitz and Kanarek arrived.) It was reported that the Meadows Foundation has some suggestions for changes to make the process better. The committee discussed as possible changes: pre-application review meeting at site; post-application site inspection when work completed; using grant as matching funds for other grants; and using grant for non-historic capitol improvements on historic buildings (furnace or roof repairs, etc.) Loos was directed to invite Meadows representatives to October meeting to discuss.

10. New Business--Civil Solution contract renewal. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to recommend to Council that Civil Solutions be awarded another \$10,000 contract to perform GIS-related open space work. Motion carried.

11. New Business—Entrance signs The committee reviewed the proposed budget for fy 07 that has money budgeted for signs. After some discussion, Danile moved and Connolly seconded a motion that carried to authorize the purchase of materials to construct entrance signs at the Skillman Lane parking lot, the Griggstown driveway entrance, the Bunker Hill Natural Area and the Memorial Forest. Motion carried. Loos will work with public works to have them construct the signs

12. New Business—Fall Foliage walk in Griggstown. The committee considered a request from the Walkable Communities team in Franklin to endorse a Fall Foliage walk in Griggstown on 10/21 from 10-12. A motion carried to endorse the walk and to close Griggstown property to hunting for that day. Loos will arrange to have a letter sent to all hunters with permits that there will be no hunting on that day.

13. Meeting opened to the public. Clyde moved and Kanarek seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

1. Susan Dawson, 184 Coppermine Road, congratulated the committee on how wonderful the Negri-Nepote Native Grassland Preserve is. She also stated that the fact that the hunting policy changes each year is creating confusion to neighbors of the Griggstown property. She asked the committee to find a policy that works and then stick to it each year.
2. Robyn Dawson, Coppermine Road stated that he thinks having hunting for part of a day (as is the policy at Negri-Nepote) is dangerous. He also asked about cleaning up the junk in Griggstown. Loos stated that this is on the work order.

13. Executive session. Clyde moved and Battin seconded a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the status of property negotiations. Motion carried. At 9:40pm, the committee came out of Ex. Session.

14. Adjournment. At 9:40 PM the committee adjourned upon a motion by Danile, seconded by Connolly. Motion carried..

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant

**Franklin Township OSAC
Executive Session Minutes
September 19, 2006**

1. **First Executive Session to discuss Open Space pending purchases and negotiations status.** Beginning at 7:45 pm, the committee was updated on the status of the following pending purchases:

Balance available from OSTF bonds to purchase property		\$25,418,120.84					
Pending OS Purchases already approved:						Likely amount from OSTF	Acres
		Purchase price	Expected reimbursement				
Lake--open space next to farm		\$208,420				\$280,000	6.13
PIG pending purchases*:							
Riya I** (R40) (under contract)	1	\$731,700	\$237,600	\$0.00	\$0	\$494,100	16.26
Perrin** (R40) (under contract; closing pending)	1	\$214,720	\$128,832	\$0.00	\$0	\$85,888	6.10
Lake** (under contract; closing pending)	1	\$703,680	\$422,208	\$0.00	\$0	\$281,472	21.99
Lemantovich** (tentative agreement)	1	3,804,477.60	\$0	\$0.00	\$0, but could get some	\$3,804,478	57.12
Suydam Assoc.** (tentative agreement)	1	\$12,350,000	\$3,089,538	\$0	\$1,025,050	\$8,235,412	130.00
	Total	\$17,804,578	\$3,878,178	\$0	\$1,025,050	\$12,901,350	231.47
		Total anticipated Township costs: OS & PIG):		\$13,181,350			
		Estimated balance in OSTF after all above purchases are completed		\$12,236,771			

** development easement only

At 7:52, Clyde moved and Connolly seconded a motion to leave Executive Session. Motion carried.

2. Second Executive Session to discuss possible property purchases. At 9:25, the committee entered Executive Session and discussed the possibility of working to preserve the following properties:

- Collins on /Rt. 27
- Grassy area along market Street in E. Millstone
- Onka property in E. Millstone
- Trap Rock Houses

The committee asked that Loos obtain relevant portions of the redevelopment study and provide to the committee prior to next month's meeting so that the committee could give consideration to the latter three properties.

Loos was asked to reach out to Collins on Rt. 27 and get more information for the committee's next meeting.

Danile moved and Connolly seconded a motion to leave Ex. Session. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant