

**Franklin Township
Open Space Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 16, 2010**

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Puskas in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:30 PM. Present (P) were members:

Melba Battin-P
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly
Kenneth W Daly
Mark Healy-P
Randy Jones
Phyllis Beals-8:05
James Vassanella-

Robert LaCorte-P
John Moon
Mike Orsini-P
Alice Osipowitz
Bob Puskas-P
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs-P
Phil Kramer-P

1. **Approval of minutes.** Bob Puskas moved and LaCorte seconded a motion to approve the minutes with changes, of the February 16, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

2. **Financial Report.** The financial report, dated January 20, 2009, was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF is \$18,440 802.77. Approval of the report was moved by Lacorte, seconded by Schmidt. Motion Carried.

3. **Consultant's report.** The committee reviewed the consultant's report.
 -Container to store equipment in Griggstown will be ordered.
 -2nd Balloon Test for possible Griggstown cell tower was described.

4. **1st Opening of the meeting to the public.** Lacorte moved and Mettler seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Lacorte moved and Mettler seconded a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

-Orsini discussed potential clean ups of Phil Marden preserve, namely parking area and cleanup of the pond area by removing multiflora rose and planting native grasses. There was a motion to assemble and review costs by La Corte, 2nd by Mettler. Motion Carried.

-Millstone Valley Signs-get refined cost for Millstone group-Originally cost of \$5,000 presented. Committee needs broken out costs of material and labor. Requests can be handled through the open space program.

-Scalzone Sign. Approved with changes. Lacorte moved, Mettler 2nd, motion carried (Post meeting: approved by Joe Scalzone with gratitude).

-Limit mailing of committee packets: Spirit of the committee is to limit mailing of monthly packets. Better utilization of available mailboxes was discussed. Solutions will be reviewed and attempted but not at the expense of timely, coherent, and complete distribution of packets.

New Business

6. Meadows Foundation: Presentation by Mark Else regarding Hageman farm and cost overruns. In summary, shortage due to miscalculation of available grant money, and additional costs not originally planned, namely foundation work on carriage house. As part of the presentation, Mr. Else pointed out that the open space trust fund grant is underfunded, relative to the inventory of historic structures that the township has.

Two funding options were discussed for relief of the Meadows Foundation shortfall:

- Use of the Township "Historic Preservation Trust Fund"
- Use of Open Space Trust fund surplus.

Lacorte motioned, and Schmidt seconded the motion to confirm the principal and interest in Historic Trust Fund, and to confirm protocol for using open space trust monies not accounted for in grant program and review at next meeting. Motion Carried

7. **Deer Control.** Puskas discussed deer control. Report coming next meeting.

8. **Memorial Forest Buffering.** Orsini discussed as part of the Arbor Day celebration, the Shade Tree Commission plans to plant trees to improve and enhance the buffering along the railroad right of way along the Memorial Forest. Orsini moved and Triggs seconded a motion to reach out and discuss with adjacent property owners, the opportunity to enhance the buffer, at no cost to adjacent land owners. Shade Tree Commission would supply trees. LaCorte volunteered to assist Loos in this effort.

9. **Land Conservation Rally:** Loos advised March 20th there will be Land Use Rally in Montclair. He encouraged anyone on committee to attend.

10. **2nd Opening of the meeting to the public.** Lacorte moved and Puskas seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

- Harry Weber, 543 Somerset Street. Requested clarification on several items discussed including Hageman farm, trees on Middlebush Park
- Mark Grieco, 21 Cooper Avenue. Requested clarification on the \$104,000 line item for doors and windows on Hageman farm

LaCorte moved and Connell seconded a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

11. **Adjournment:** Puskas moved, and LaCorte Seconded motion to adjourn. Motion carried at 9:46pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Connell, Secretary