

Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2007

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, Moon, Connolly, LaCorte and Battin. Also present was Consultant Loos. Arriving later were Chase and Clyde.
3. **Reorganization.** Nominations were made for officers as follows:
Jones nominated as Chair by Connolly, seconded by Battin. Motion carried.
 - a. Connolly nominated as Vice Chair by Battin, seconded by Moon. Motion carried.
 - b. Loos nominated as Secretary by Connolly, seconded by Battin. Motion carried..
4. **Approval of the December 12, 2006 minutes.** Connolly moved and Battin seconded a motion to approve the December 12, 2006 minutes. Motion carried.
5. **Financial Report.** Loos reported that there is \$25,530,333.43 in the open space trust fund as of January 16, 2007. Connolly moved and Battin seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.
6. **Opening of the meeting to the public.** Connolly moved and Battin seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
 - Toshiaki Ozawa, 7 Forest Avenue asked about the “no pets” policy at the Griggstown Preserve. He suggested that the prohibition on dogs on leashes should be rescinded as he felt that dogs on leashes would not harm the property or the wildlife and that there was a significant constituency in Griggstown that would support such a change. He also stated that it seemed that hunters had a much greater right to the property than others. Several members of the OSAC explained the reasoning behind the policy. Chairman Jones suggested that Mr. Ozawa attend the March 2007 meeting for the OSAC White Tailed Deer Reduction Policy review to express his concerns about the current "hunting policy" on Township Open Space property. Second, Mr. Jones suggested that OSAC add as an agenda item a discussion on the "no pets" policy for the April 2007 meeting. He encouraged Mr. Ozawa and other members of the community that are concerned about the "no pets" policy to attend the April 2007 meeting. Connolly moved and Battin seconded a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
7. **Consultants report.** Loos reported on several matters:
 - a. Ten Mile Run pedestrian bridge project has been approved by Schoor DePalma’s charitable organization.
 - b. Historic Preservation signs are being revised and will soon be finished.
 - c. Bike racks were ordered for three sites (Griggstown, Negri-Nepote and Memorial Forest. Total cost will be \$774.
 - d. Eagle Scout projects are per the attached.
 - e. Butler Road trails were preliminarily cut, flagged and mapped by GPS. Eagle Scout candidates will finish.

- f. Wooden Open Space Entrance Signs were ordered for three sites: Griggstown, Negri-Nepote and Memorial Forest.
 - g. X-mas tree wood chips will soon be put on wet areas of trails.
 - h. Proposed changes to the SADC regulations for the municipal PIG farm preservation program will require significant work by Loos to prepare application to continue to get SADC funding in future years. Loos will need to begin working on this soon.
 - i. Township's Negri-Nepote wetlands project received "Honorable Mention" award from NJ League of Municipalities and at the League's request, Loos will be writing a newsletter article for their monthly magazine. Award was passed around.
 - j. Tulipwood Historic Structures Report (HSR) that OSAC funded (\$75,000) is complete. Copy of the HSR was passed around for review.
 - k. Equestrian insurance issue was discussed and the committee reviewed the current policy that has equestrian's having to get more insurance than hunters. Clyde moved and Moon seconded a motion as follows: That the OSAC recommends to the Township that equestrians be required to have only the same type of insurance as hunters are required to have (\$1 million liability insurance). Motion carried.
 - l. Handicapped access trail at Negri-Nepote has been approved and will be constructed this year by Township Public Works Department. An Eagle Scout candidate will construct the ramp up to the wildlife viewing blind. (Around this point, John Clyde arrived.)
- 8. Trails Advisory Committee Update.** John Clyde updated the committee on the work of the TAC . He reviewed a draft map of the TAC's Pathways Plan.
- 9. Old Business.** Naming the Westpoint Avenue open space property. Jones announced that this item will be tabled until the February meeting.
- 10. New Business.**
- a. Problems with the wells at Township-owned historic buildings (Hageman and Wykoff-Garretson). Mark Else, Executive Director of the Meadows Foundation (MF) reported that the MF had the wells at the above properties tested and that there were deficiencies reported that need to be immediately remediated. The MF obtained estimates that ranged from \$7,880 to \$8,880. Else asked that the committee give consideration to where the funds might be secured to do the remediation. Loos reported that there is \$54,170.35 in a fund that is called the "Trust Fund for Contributions Towards the Cost of Acquisition and Preservation of Historic Structures (commonly known as the "Historic Trust Fund." There also is a Community Foundation Fund that has some money in it. Clyde moved and LaCorte seconded a motion to recommend to the Township that the Township approve expending funds from either of these funds in order to remediate the well problem. Motion carried.
 - b. Outings on open space in 2007. The outings have been finalized. The attached "Explore wilderness right in the heart of Franklin Township!" outlines the schedule.

- c. Follow up and implementing the Eco-Heritage Tourism Plan. Loos explained that Township Manager Ken Daly asked for a recommendation from OSAC on how to follow up on the recommendations contained in the Franklin Township Eco-heritage tourism plan. The committee asked Loos if he had the time to do some follow up. Loos explained that he thought that he could fit into his time schedule some time to begin the follow up, without having to increase the total amount of his consulting contract. however this issue may have to be reviewed for any subsequent contract. Connolly moved and LaCorte seconded a motion to authorize Loos to begin to work on following up on implementing the recommendations in the plan. Motion carried.
 - d. Resolution in support of renewing funding of the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund. LaCorte moved and Connolly seconded a motion to approve the attached "Resolution in support of renewing funding of the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund." Motion carried.
 - e. GPS device purchase. Loos explained that the Township's GPS device does not work properly and that the open space program really needs to have a functioning GPS device for proper field work. He has done preliminary research on what is needed and one estimate he has totaled just over \$1,400. Clyde moved and Connolly seconded a motion to authorize expending up, to \$2,000 to purchase the needed equipment and software. Motion carried.
 - f. Joint meeting of the Franklin and Montgomery Environmental Commissions. Clyde explained that he was late for the meeting because he is on the Environmental Commission (EC) that he attended a joint meeting with Montgomery Township's EC earlier that evening. Issues discussed included wildlife management and the possibility of connecting trails between Franklin Montgomery and Hillsborough Townships.
- 11. Executive Session.** At 9:20, upon a motion by Clyde, seconded by Connolly, a motion carried to go into Executive Session to discuss possible purchase and/or sale of property. At 10:00 the committee came out of Executive Session
- 12. Adjournment.** At 10:00 PM the committee came out of Executive Session and upon a motion that carried by Connolly, seconded by Moon, the OSAC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant

Eagle Scout COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project	Scout/Troop
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
Wildlife Viewing Blind, Phase 2, NNGP	Tim Bodner/113

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Project	Scout/Troop	Project Status	Target Completion Date*
Trail Construction (Beech Trail) GNGP	David Dalton/113	Per an email on 1/8/07, David is in the final stages and wrapping up this project	January 2007
Trail Construction (Upper Woods Trail) GNGP	Martin Metz	Martin Metz and GAM have been in email contact. GAM followed-up again on 1/8/07	
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	Doug continues working on a proposal with C. Carey (school and scouts have kept him busy per mother – Doug is to contact me soon)	
Demonstration Habitats with Deer Enclosures	Alex Banko	As soon as schedules allow, GAM and Alex will meet to view site and discuss project objectives	Summer 2007 anticipated
Bridge Construction		JL and Township engineer have visited site and discussed options for bridge plans	Summer 2007
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....	
Butterfly garden fence and plant ID markers		This new project was e-mailed to C. Carey on 12/4. There is a need for a fence around the butterfly garden and plant identification labels at garden and along some of the hiking trails.	
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) no response yet	
Natural Park Benches – BHNA		Presented this again to Cayce Carey who has another scout in need of a project (10/10/06) no response yet	
Wheelchair ramp for wildlife viewing blind access		A scout will be identified for this project.	

Explore wilderness right in the heart of Franklin Township!

When asked what recreational opportunities are most wanted, many survey respondents state that “places to walk” is their #1 response. As a way to be responsive to this need, the Township’s Open Space Advisory Committee is sponsoring the Third Annual Series “Exploring Franklin Township’s Wilderness.”

While Franklin Township is located in one of the most densely populated regions of the country, it claims over 9,000 acres of preserved land (1/3 of the Township’s land mass) and this area provides key habitat for unique species of plants and animals.

Six of the walks will be led by New Jersey Audubon Society naturalists and the other two will be led by the Township’s Open Space Consultant, John Loos.

The schedule for the walks is:

- 3/23/07 Woodcocks and owls at dusk
6:30pm-8:30pm
Meet at the parking lot located up the hill of the driveway entrance located at 1091 Canal Road--just west of the Griggstown Causeway.
- 5/6/07 Spring Migration at the Negri-Nepote Native Grassland Preserve
8am-10am
Meet at the parking lot located at 260 Skillmans Lane.
- 5/6/07 Spring Migration at the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve
11am-1pm
Meet at the parking lot located up the hill of the driveway entrance located at 1091 Canal Road--just west of the Griggstown Causeway.
- 6/10/07 Exploring the Negri-Nepote Native Grassland Preserve
(Looking for breeding birds)
8am-10am
Meet at the parking lot located at 260 Skillmans Lane.
- 6/10/07 Exploring the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve
(Looking for breeding birds)
11am-1pm
Meet at the parking lot located up the hill of the driveway entrance located at 1091 Canal Road--just west of the Griggstown Causeway.
- 7/28/07 Butterflies at the Negri-Nepote Native Grassland Preserve
9am-11am
Meet at the parking lot located at 260 Skillmans Lane.

- 7/28/07 Butterflies at the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve
12am-2pm
*Meet at the parking lot located up the hill of the driveway entrance located
at 1091 Canal Road--just west of the Griggstown Causeway.*
- 9/22/07 A walk to the Nine-Mile-Run-Cliffs on the Ten Mile Run Greenway
10am-12:30pm
Meet at the Municipal Building's parking lot.
- 10/20/07 Fall Foliage at the Griggstown Native Grassland Preserve
10am -12pm
*Meet at the parking lot located up the hill of the driveway entrance located
at 1091 Canal Road--just west of the Griggstown Causeway.*

No pre-registration is necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them and preferably wear boots. For detailed directions to the parks, information, and updates please visit http://www.franklintwpnj.org/open_space.html

Questions? Call John Loos at 732 422-4326 or the New Jersey Audubon Society at 908-837-9571.

**Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RENEWAL OF THE GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION
TRUST**

Whereas, continued investment in open space preservation is vitally important to the state because of its value for New Jersey's economy, environment, and character; and

Whereas, New Jersey continues to face incredible pressure from development, loosing close to 50 acres of open space daily to new projects; and

Whereas, the Garden State Preservation Trust has helped to establish New Jersey as a national leader in open space preservation, protecting over half a million acres of natural space and farmland since 1998; and

Whereas, the Garden State Preservation Trust is essential not only to the State's conservation programs, but also to the work of counties, municipalities and nonprofit organizations by providing grants and low interest loans to help preserve land for future generations; and

Whereas, even many of the places already protected – our state and local parks – are threatened by inadequate levels of funding for operation, maintenance, and stewardship; and

Whereas, the Garden State Preservation Trust is nearing bankruptcy, with funds to be completely exhausted in 2007 despite the continued need for the programs it makes possible; therefore be it

Resolved, that The Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee supports the renewal and strengthening of the Garden State Preservation Trust, to provide \$325 million annually for New Jersey to continue its programs of open space acquisition, farmland and historic site preservation, and the dedication of \$56 million annually to establish a stable source of funding for operation, maintenance, stewardship and capital projects for parks, farmland and natural areas.

Duly authenticated copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to:

New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Bamboo Brook, 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931
The Outdoor Recreation Alliance c/o N.J. Audubon Society, 11 Hardscrabble Road,
Bernardsville, NJ 07934
The Honorable Jon Corzine, Office of the Governor, PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625
State Senator, 17 District
State Assemblypersons, 17th District
Daily and Weekly Newspapers
Franklin Township Manager, Council and Mayor

For the Resolution: Jones, Moon, Connolly, LaCorte, Clyde and Battin.

Against: None

Adopted by the Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee on January 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos, Secretary/Consultant