

**Franklin Township
Open Space Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 20, 2009**

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:37 PM. Present (P) were members:

Melba Battin-P
Ted Chase-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Kenneth W Daly
Mark Healy-P
Randy Jones-P
Phyllis Beals
Vandana Khurana

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

2. **Election of officers.** The committee elected officers in accordance with the following:

- Battin moved and Moon seconded the nomination of Randy Jones as Chair. There being no other nominations, Jones was elected.
- Triggs moved and Battin seconded the nomination of Jack Connolly as Vice-Chair. There being no other nominations, Connolly was elected.
- Connolly moved and Battin seconded the nomination of John Loos as Secretary. There being no other nominations, Loos was elected.

3. **Approval of minutes.** Connolly moved and Connell seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

4. **Financial Report.** The financial report, dated January 20, 2009, was reviewed. The balance in the OSTF is \$15,757,259.77. Approval of the report was moved by LaCorte, seconded by Moon, and passed unanimously.

5. **1st Opening of the meeting to the public.** Connolly moved and Connell seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

- Anne Zeman, 4490 Rt. 27, Kingston spoke on behalf of the Kingston Village Advisory Committee (KVAC). She discussed the old Kingston School (constructed in 1920) and stated that it is a contributing structure to the National and State Historic District. The KVAC was advised by the township in December 2008 to come up with recommendations on how the building might be used, who would use it and how often it would be used. The KVAC, as a result, has just begun its work on this issue. She asked that the OSAC hold off making a recommendation regarding the Kingston School until the KVAC had more time to investigate possible uses.
- Cathy Pavelec, 35 Laurel Ave., Kingston asked that the OSAC hold off making a recommendation regarding the Kingston School until the KVAC had more time to investigate possible uses.

- Jan ten Broeke, 2346 Amwell Rd., East Millstone stated that he is with the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition and that Kingston is within its jurisdiction. He stated that the school might be able to be used as a part of the Crossroads of the Revolution meeting place, by Rockingham and/or by the US Bicycling Hall of Fame. He asked that the OSAC hold off making a recommendation regarding the Kingston School until the KVAC had more time to investigate possible uses.
- Robert von Zumbusch, 1113 Princeton-Kingston Rd stated that he and other Kingston folks had met with Green Acres and explored possible uses and possible “diversion” from Green Acres. He also stated that any demolition plan would require SHPO review and approval. He asked that the OSAC hold off making a recommendation regarding the Kingston School until the KVAC had more time to investigate possible uses.
- Tari Pantalo, Plainsboro, has worked in Kingston for over 20 years and is the President of Kingston Greenways Assoc. She asked that the OSAC hold off making a recommendation regarding the Kingston School until the KVAC had more time to investigate possible uses.

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

6. Discussion of Kingston School. Several suggestions were made:

- a. That the township itemize the “additional costs” that were listed at the bottom of the cost estimate page prepared by the Township Engineer;
- b. That all costs itemized be broken down by “old building” and “new Building.”
- c. That the township prepare an estimated cost of demolition.

Following this discussion, LaCorte moved and Triggs seconded a motion that this item be tabled until the June 2009 meeting and that the KVAC come to the June meeting to give a report on their progress. Motion carried, with Jones voting “no” because he felt that the KVAC should come back sooner than June.

7. Consultant’s report. The committee reviewed the consultant’s report and Eagle Scout project list. No public was present for the first opening of the meeting to the public.

8. Eagle Scout Project report. The committee reviewed the Eagle Scout project list. Loos reported that there is a new project: constructing and installing six benches on the Griggstown property. A woman will be donating the cost of the supplies and a small memorial plaque will be placed on each bench memorializing a lost loved one.

9. Seely’s Run. Loos reported that the property edges have been posted and that a community clean-up day will be organized. He also asked that the STC consider if re-vegetation of the disturbed areas might be considered. Orsini offered to conduct a site visit with Loos and they will so coordinate.

10. Historic Grant applications. LaCorte reported on the progress of the HPC in reviewing the three grant applications.

11. Reforestation project, Bunker Hill Natural Area. Loos reported on the progress of this project. Target date for implementation is spring 2009.

12. **Community Gardens.** Chase asked that the OSAC be supportive of community gardens, perhaps on the following properties: Catalpa, Gunther, Middlebush Park and Namin Williams Park. John Moon will check out the possibility on Middlebush Park and Namin Williams Park. Connolly suggested that one site first be selected and implemented and field tested before the township does the rest.

13. **Coordination with the Trails Advisory Committee.** Connolly reported that the TAC wants to coordinate with OSAC regarding purchasing property that would connect trail segments.

14. **2nd Opening of the meeting to the public.** Schmidt moved and Connolly seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

- Jan ten Broeke, 2346 Amwell Rd., East Millstone stated that he is supportive of community gardens—especially on the Gunther tract. He also is supportive of preserving the Gunther House. He also felt that the OSAC should consider a program to make the exterior of all township-owned historic buildings to be in an “on-display” condition—i.e., make them look nice.

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

15. **Executive Session.** A motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the status of negotiations was moved, seconded and approved. At 10:00, the committee came out of Executive Session.

16. Adjournment. Connolly moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant