

**Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes  
October 21, 2008**

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 (P) were members:

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

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

Also present was Consultant Loos. Chairman Jones introduced Phyllis Beals who was recently appointed as the Board of Education's representative.

3. **Approval of the September 16, 2008 OSAC minutes.** LaCorte moved and Connell seconded a motion to approve the 9/16/08 minutes. Motion carried.
4. **Financial Report.** Loos reported that there is \$17,868,245.30 in the OSTF. Chase moved and Battin seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.
5. **Opening of the meeting to the public.** Chase moved and Moon seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
  - Chuck Martin, 3 Seeleys Run, advised the committee that there has been extensive ATV use on the Seeleys Run Green Acres property. Extensive trail system has been made, resulting in significant habitat destruction. Photos were provided. OSAC asked Loos to follow up with Mr. Martin and to have township take appropriate action.
  - Nancy Sayre, Elizabeth Avenue asked about any plans for additional fields and lighted fields at Middlebush Park. Several members (Jones, Chase and Moon) responded. (At this point, Orsini arrived.) LaCorte moved and Connolly seconded a motion to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried.
6. **Consultant's report.** The committee reviewed the consultant's report and Eagle Scout project list.
7. **Hageman property survey.** The committee continued its review of a request to have the OSTF pay for a survey of the Hageman property, as there appears to be a disagreement over the property line between the Meadows Foundation, (which leases the Six Mile Run Reservoir Site property from the township), and Bob Puskas who leases adjacent property from the State. After some discussion, the consensus of the committee was to not recommend funding of this expense.
8. **Open Space budget for FY 2009.** The committee was advised that the FY 09 budget would need to have approximate \$100,000 for a new roof and about \$30,000 for a new alarm system at the Kingston School. They were also advised that the building is now empty and thus no lease payments are being collected. After some discussion, the consensus of the committee was to not recommend funding of this expense, but rather investigating the possibility of demolishing the building. A subcommittee comprised of LaCorte, Connolly and Chase was formed to conduct a site visit to the building and make a recommendation back to the OSAC.
9. **Naming the Scott property the "Phil Marden Preserve."** The committee reviewed the attached Resolution naming the former "Scott Farm" "The Phil Marden Preserve." LaCorte moved and Connolly seconded a motion to recommend to the Council that they adopt the attached Resolution. Motion carried.

**10. Scott property.** Loos reported that the TAC had reviewed the OSAC subcommittee's report and recommendations for a site plan for this property. The TAC agreed with all of the OSAC subcommittees' recommendations, except that they did not support a trail along the southern edge of the property. The TAC's recommendation is per the attached. Because the OSAC had asked Loos to find out the anticipated cost of creating a driveway entrance on Van Cleef Road and the cost of a parking lot, Loos reported that the township engineer estimated the cost of the driveway and parking lot to be between \$15,000 and \$25,000. Also, because the OSAC had asked Loos to find out the Police Department's thoughts on a driveway entrance on Van Cleef, Loos reported that Bob Vornlocker agreed that this was a good location for a driveway.

- Connolly made it clear that he thinks the plan should include the Trail Committee's recommendation for a bike path through the property.
- LaCorte made it clear that he did not support spending money on this project.
- Loos advised that he thought that the driveway/parking lot and bike path might be appropriate for a trails grant application to the State.
- Several members felt that the dredging the pond would be a nice feature for the property.
- Battin stated that she knows someone who might assist the township with issues surrounding dredging the pond.

The committee asked Loos to work with Battin on this and bring more information back to a future meeting. They also wanted an estimated cost of the bike path through this property.

**11. New Business.**

- **Southern Park Task Force.** Jones and Chase reported on the Southern Park Task Force meetings. They reported that there was going to be a survey of residents in the southern portion of the township that will solicit resident input on recreational needs.
- **Egg hunt.** Jones suggested that the annual spring egg hunt be held on an open space site.
- **Communication between BOE and the rest of the township.** Beals reported that she will work with the BOE to attempt to improve communication between the BOE and other township bodies—especially on the issue of recreational needs.
- **BOE energy/conservation plans.** Beals reported that the BOE has recently adopted a new energy/conservation policy and that the BOE will be implementing energy savings ideas in the near future.
- **Reforestation.** Orsini reported that the STC has money dedicated to planting trees and he was interested in utilizing some of this money for planting trees on the Bunker Hill Natural Area. Loos suggested that the township might want to consider having a forest management plan for several of its larger forests on open space. Battin advised that the State may be able to assist, but that a forester likely would cost money. Orsini asked Loos to ask Township Manager if such an expense would be appropriate through the STC's tree fund.

**12. Second opening of the meeting to the public.** LaCorte moved and Connolly seconded a motion to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

- Nancy Sayre asked about whether or not the pond on the Hutchinson Memorial Forest property on open space on Van Cleef could be utilized as a place for fishing—rather than dredging the Scott farm pond. She was advised that this is owned by Rutgers and that it is not open to the public.
- No other member of the public wanted to speak, so a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Connolly and seconded by LaCorte. Motion carried.

**13. Adjournment.** At 9:45 PM, upon a motion by Connolly, seconded by LaCorte, a motion passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Loos, Secretary/Consultant

**Resolution naming the former “Scott Farm”  
“The Phil Marden Preserve”**

**WHEREAS** this November marks the 10 year anniversary of the Franklin Township Non-binding referendum in which the voters approved of the establishment of an Open Space Trust Fund; and

**WHEREAS** Phillip Marden, led a team of volunteers in going door-to-door to collect the signatures of thousands of township residents who supported placing the referendum on the November 2008 ballot; and

**WHEREAS** that ballot initiative was overwhelmingly supported by the voters; and

**WHEREAS** the Township Council shortly thereafter adopted an Ordinance that established the “Open Space, Recreation and Farmland, and Historical Preservation Trust Fund;” and

**WHEREAS** since that that Trust Fund was initially established the Township has utilized the Fund to purchase over 650 acres of open space, over 580 acres of farmland preservation easements and has spent over \$1.5 million to preserve our township’s historical properties; and

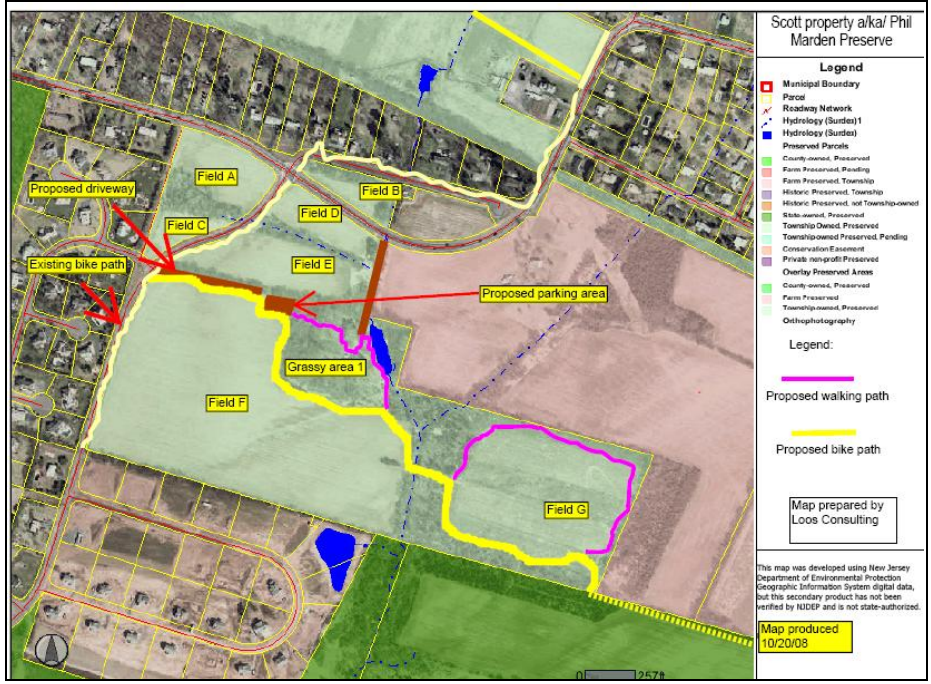
**WHEREAS** one of the properties that was purchased was the 75-acre “Scott Farm” on Amwell Road; and

**WHEREAS** without the efforts of Phil Marden and the team of volunteers that he led ten years ago, the Scott Farm likely would not be preserved as open space; and

**WHEREAS** Phil Marden, recently remarked that his efforts to get the Open Space referendum passed were inspired by the efforts of his mother, Frieda Marden, who led the way in a previous generation, to preserve many of the cultural and environmental resources of the township; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** on this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Open Space Referendum that paved the way for the establishment of the Open Space Trust Fund, that the Township of Franklin hereby recognizes the efforts of Phil Marden in leading the way for the preservation of what now is over 34% of the township’s land base; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in recognition of Phil Marden’s efforts, the property that is formerly known as the Scott Farm, located at 1970 Amwell Road in Block 74.01, Lot 7 be hereinafter named the “PHIL MARDEN PRESERVE.”



Scott property  
TAC's recommendation