

**Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee
Minutes
November 17, 2009**

Call to order and roll call. Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM in accordance with the sunshine law. Present were Bob Puskas, Jack Connolly, Arnold Schmidt, David Triggs, John Moon, Randy Jones, Melba Battin, Alice Osipowitz, Bill Connell and Mike Orsini.

October 20, 2009 minutes. The minutes of meeting of October 20, 2009 were approved unanimously.

Meeting opened to public.

- Maureen Lameza, 34 Cartier Drive, Franklin Park asked if there are any changes in Six Mile Run or at the open space known as Catalpa.
- Phil Kramer, 429 Canal Road, Somerset continue pursue E. Millstone Sign Project. He also suggested the need for a master plan for Park improvements. If we can't fully develop Middlebush and Catalpa then open space might want to purchase additional property for actual recreation.
- Randy Jones read letter of support for active recreation from open space trust fund.
- Phil Kramer expressed interest in a document regarding planning and cost for OSAC, Parks & Recreation and historic preservation.
- Mike Orsini referenced the Master Plan that includes Northern and Southern Parks. Budget questions should go to Recreation Council.
- Historic Preservation Signs for East Millstone – Phil Kramer requested funding for East Millstone sign project. John Loos is looking into cost of sign. If the county doesn't have a problem with the signs, then Randy Jones and Mike Orsini suggested that they approach a 501c3 organization to apply to open space on their behalf.
- Liz Palius and Jan ten Brooke, Millstone Valley Preservation Committee supported the signs for East Millstone.

Jack Connolly motioned to close public discussion. Motion was seconded and passed.

Review of consultant-prepared reports. The committee reviewed the Consultant Work Log, the Eagle Scout Project report and the Farmland Preservation report.

Other Reports

- Mark Healy will provide the OSAC with the report on the Canal Access committee.
- Southern Park, no questions
- Mike Orsini, Shade Tree Commission Chairman, said that he is getting prices on purchasing trees and that prices are good on this economy. Possibilities of places to plant trees on open space include: Butler Road, Memorial Forest Entrance and the Griggstown Preserve Driveway. Bob Puskas will make some additional suggestions.

Middlebush Park and Marden Preserve. Osipowitz updated the committee on the development plans for Middlebush Park. She also reported that there will be a public hearing on the proposed development of both Middlebush Park and the Phil Marden Preserve—both scheduled for December 8th.

Audubon outings on open space. Seven walks were held in 2009. Report was reviewed that included the number of attendees. Bob Puskas asked about the cost effectiveness for running these programs. And also do we know if number of birds has increased? Mike estimated that numbers must have increased. The committee will ask John Loos to evaluate the cost for the program. Bob Puskas move to table the issue of NJ Audubon outings until the next meeting when we get a cost comparison. Alice Osipowitz suggested a meeting with OSAC, Advisory Recreation Council and the Board of Education to discuss environmental education program.

Scalzone Natural Area. The committee discussed the Scalzone Natural Area signs – Regular open space sign with additional information requested will be on them.

Kingston School. The original request to review at this committee is still up in the air. Ken Daly was looking into historical preservation funding. Question of whether or not it should be demolished or preserved. The school's future is in limbo. KVAC was supposed to develop use plan and possible tenant, but this has not yet been done.

Historical Preservation grant program for 2010. The committee reviewed the draft program and made minor grammatical, typo and other revisions regarding the application process. Bob Puskas questioned the provision requiring easements on properties.

Deer Control. This was briefly discussed by Puskas. He and Len Wolgast are working on some possible changes to the township's deer management program and he will report further at the January meeting.

Holiday Party. The committee will coordinate with other committees for December 15th.

Adjournment. Upon a motion that was seconded and passed, the committee adjourned.