

Franklin Township Open Space Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, April 17, 2007

1. **Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.** At 7:35 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 Connolly, Chase, Orsini, Clyde, Battin, Jones, Moon and Puskas. Clyde had to leave early, as noted in the minutes. Councilman Dan Glickman and Consultant Loos were also present.
3. **Approval of the March 20, 2007 minutes.** Puskas made and Connolly seconded a motion to approve the March 20, 2007 minutes. Motion carried.
4. **Financial Report.** Loos reported that there is \$25,425,704.17 in the open space trust fund. He also reported on continuing attempts to secure accurate information regarding the grants the Township has received for open space and farmland preservation. He stated that the Township has hired a financial consultant who is working with von Ohlen and Loos to secure this information and Loos was optimistic that the grant issue can be cleared up in the near future. Clyde moved and Battin seconded a motion that stated that the OSAC wants the OSAC funds audited and that resolution of any discrepancies in the grant fund be resolved and that procedures be put into place to ensure the timely transfer of grants to the OSTF. Motion carried.
5. **Opening of the meeting to the public.** Puskas asked that every effort be made by all OSAC members to keep comments limited to the topic so that meetings can be shortened. A motion was then made by Puskas, seconded by Clyde, to open the meeting to the public carried.
 - Matt Shareck, 207 Sapphire Lane asked what the debt service is on the open space trust fund. Loos stated that the annual debt service in the current budget is \$862,000 for debt service and \$1,500,000 for bond principal.
 - No other public requesting to speak so a motion by Clyde, seconded by Orsini carried to close the meeting to the public.
6. **Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) presentation.** John Clyde, Chair of the TAC, reported that the TAC draft plan has been presented to the AAC, Environmental Commission and to Scouts. Good feedback has been received and the TAC is holding a public hearing on June 13.
7. **Consultants report.** Consultant Loos reviewed a memo describing projects on which he worked in the last month (attached). He answered questions on several projects.
8. **Clyde resignation.** Clyde announced his resignation due to a conflict in scheduling. Jones thanked Clyde for his good service.
9. **Old Business—Purchasing a GPS device.** The committee reviewed a recommendation from the Township Engineering Department regarding the purchase of a GPS device. Connolly moved and Puskas seconded a

motion to purchase the recommended device. Motion carried. The device is as follows:

Magellan® Professional Mobile Mapper GIS/GPS

Combine full GIS data collection and navigation software in a compact handheld GPS receiver. Enhanced by an internal WAAS/EGNOS receiver, MobileMappers provide sub-meter accuracy. Thanks to their powerful office support software which provides clear and simple data display, editing and export capabilities, MobileMappers are ideal for anyone who manages positioning assets in the field, including utility workers, foresters, farmers and resource managers.

The MobileMapper Series can also be used to create or update maps for analysis and storage in a Geographic Information System. Data can be transferred to your PC using a serial or USB cable or using a removable SD (Secure Digital) memory card. Highly shock resistant and completely waterproof. Each system comes standard with a data cable, a removable SD card, Getting Started Guide and User Manual, Office software suite for GIS support, and batteries. Mobile Mapper Office Hardware Requirements: Windows 95 / 98 / ME / NT 4.0 or later / 2000; Pentium, 133MHz or better; 32 MB RAM; 90 MB disk space required for installation.

Magellan Unit	\$2,400.00
Data cable	\$ 37.35
Carrying case	<u>\$ 19.95</u>
	\$2,457.30

- 10. New Business—Historic grant.** The committee reviewed grant application from two historic churches. After considerable discussion, there was consensus that the committee should recommend some funding of exterior roof and steeple repair, but not recommend funding for changing door assemblies to meet code. The committee will review the last grant application at the May meeting and then make a final recommendation to the Council after all applications have been reviewed.
- 11. New Business—Wildlife Control for 2007-08 hunting season.** Loos handed out a revised draft of a policy for the 2007-08 season—see attached. The matter was referred to the Wildlife Control Committee (WCC) for their review over the next month. The WCC will bring recommendations to the May OSAC meeting.
- 12. New Business- Creating a Blueprint for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation in Somerset County.** The committee suggested that Loos attend the Somerset Co. Planning Board meeting on this subject—see attached.
- 13. Releasing Executive Session minutes for calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006.** Loos reported that he has reviewed the minutes for the period 2004-2006 and recommends that the executive session minutes for this period be released to the public. Battin moved and Puskus recommended a motion to release the. Motion carried.

- 14. Civil Solutions Contract.** Loos reported that his contract expires on 6/30/07 and that if the OSAC wants a consultant beyond that time, it needs to recommend to the Council another contract. This subject will be placed on the May OSAC agenda. Loos advised that Civil Solutions had been working closely with the OSAC and TAC programs and had run out of money in their existing open space contract. Much more mapping and GIS work continues to be needed. Clyde moved and Orsini seconded a motion to recommend to the Council that Civil Solutions be awarded an additional \$10,000 for open space-related mapping and GIS work. Motion carried. At this point, Clyde left the meeting.
- 15. New Business—FY 08 OSTF budget.** The committee will need to develop a proposed budget, either at the May or June meeting. Loos will see if it can be done at the June meeting, since he will not be available for the May meeting.
- 16. Good and welfare.** Puskus asked Loos to get the specifications on the tractor equipment that was purchased
- 17. New Business—sign on roads where hiking trails meet the road.** The committee reviewed a draft sign and approved it, but suggested that the wording be changed to say, “Franklin Township Hiking Trails.” Loos was directed to get these made.
- 18. Executive Session.** Around 9:15, upon a motion by Connolly, seconded by Orsini, a motion carried to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations and possible purchase of property. At 9:20 the committee came out of Executive Session.
- 19. Adjournment.** At 9:20 PM the committee came out of Executive Session and upon a motion that carried by Puskus, seconded by Connolly, the OSAC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loos
Secretary/Consultant

Loos Consulting

Strategy, management, advocacy and communication



John Loos, Consultant
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To: OSAC
From: John Loos
Date: April 2007

RE: Land Preservation Consultant's Monthly Report

Since the last OSAC meeting on March 21, 2007, I worked on the following projects:

1. Open space inventory & mapping
2. Update open space website
3. Ten Mile run pedestrian bridge
4. Catalpa park development
5. Eagle Scout projects
6. Prepare OSAC and AAC agendas & minutes
7. Collins, Lemantovich, Suydam, Chrin, Lake, Madden, Terhune, Temmer, Gaimin & Riya land preservation projects
8. Update PIG status report
9. PIG amendment request to SADC and CADB and attend CADB meeting to discuss PIG amendment request
10. Grants (NRCS and Recreational Trails)
11. Scalzone Natural Area
12. Nepote Use Agreement
13. Sign development: Historic, trail crossing & signs on Woodfield Estates
14. Revise Trails Advisory Committee's initial report and map
15. Attend TAC & AAC meetings
16. Attend monthly meeting with Township Manager Daly
17. Respond to phone calls from citizens: Nieman farm, OSAC-sponsored outings, tree removal on open space and historic preservation
18. Public works coordination
19. Invasive Species brochure
20. Prepare SADC annual report for PIG grant
21. OSTF Financial Report
22. OSTF grant tracking
23. ATVs on Griggstown open space
24. SADC PIG grant for FY '08
25. 2007 Historic grant
26. GPS device purchase
27. Attend Colonial Park master plan meeting
28. Attend Franklin Township Business and Industry Advisory Committee and discuss eco-heritage tourism

Creating a Blueprint for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation in Somerset County

An informational program for county and local officials, land use, open space and recreation planners, landscape architects, park commission and environmental organization representatives, landowners and residents

Kris Schantz, Senior Zoologist and NJ Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, and Amanda Dey, Senior Biologist from the Endangered and Non-game Species Program in New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife will provide an introduction to The New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan, which was developed by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife with help from the general public, the state's conservation groups and other stakeholders. This comprehensive plan includes an assessment of each of the landscape regions in the state; identifies wildlife species in greatest need of conservation; describes the threats to wildlife and habitats; establishes conservation goals and recommends prioritized action strategies to achieve these goals.

Learn how you can use this plan to create more sustainable communities and neighborhoods; focus the acquisition and management of public open space; enable species to thrive by using best management practices; and enhance local and regional master plans and policies to help protect habitat resources.

Jennifer Coffey, Environmental Policy Specialist with the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association will describe its innovative River Friendly Certification Program, which involves the identification and implementation of site specific environmental protection strategies that protect water resources as well as endangered and threatened water-dependant species.

Learn how you can participate in this innovative environmental stewardship program.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Freeholder Meeting Room--Third Floor

Somerset County Administration Building

20 Grove Street, Somerville NJ

Free parking is available in the parking deck that is linked to the County Administration Building, which is accessible from E. High Street.

This event is co-sponsored by NJAPA and the Somerset County Planning Board. Participants will be eligible for continuing education credits.

**Please register by April 20th by contacting:
Somerset County Planning Board
(908) 231-7021
E-mail: planningbd@co.somerset.nj.us**

Hunting Guidelines for Franklin Township Open Space Property
2007-2008 Deer Management Program
Rules and Regulations
DRAFT_DRAFT

1. Only hunters who have obtained a Franklin Township issued hunting permit are permitted to hunt on township-owned land.
2. All State and local regulations pertaining to parks and to hunting apply, including specific season dates and bag limits
3. All tree stands must be portable and removed two weeks after hunting season closes.
4. Two non-antlered deer must be taken from your approved township-owned hunting area before a buck may be taken from the area.
5. Hunting shall only be on the property that is listed on the permit.
6. A licensed adult must accompany all hunters under the age of 16.
7. All hunting results will be reviewed. This will help us determine if the hunter will be invited to hunt again in following years.
8. Vehicles are restricted to public roads and designated parking areas (map will be provided)
9. Only deer may be hunted; any other hunting is strictly prohibited.
10. Hunters are only authorized to be on the property for which they have been issued a permit, and are responsible for knowing where they are at all times. Each hunter's permit must be prominently displayed whenever the hunter is on the property.
11. Target practice is prohibited.
12. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on the property is prohibited. Littering is prohibited.
13. Violation of any special condition or any applicable State law or local regulation will result in the immediate loss of hunting privileges on the property and will also subject the hunter to any applicable penalties.
14. Hunting is restricted to the portions of the properties designated as open to deer hunting (maps will be provided).
15. Hunters are not permitted to hunt or possess a loaded firearm within 450 feet of any building or school playground or any posted safety zone area. It should be noted that some trails are posted as safety zones on open space.
16. ~~Hunting on the Ten Mile Run property may begin one half hour before sunrise and must end one half hour after sunset.~~ Hunting on the Ten Mile Run Greenway and on the Negri-Nepote Native Grassland Preserve may begin at 2:30 PM 3 pm during bow season (dates to be provided) and after 1 pm during firearms season (dates to be provided).
17. Hunting is not permitted on Sundays or on Wednesdays that are on an even day of the month.
18. Hunting Parking Permit must be displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle.
19. Hunting permit number must be clearly displayed on any tree stand. Failure to display the permit number will result in removal of and discarding of the stand.
20. No fires of any kind.
21. The attached "Hunter's Report" must be completed and returned to the Township in order to be considered for participation in obtaining a permit for the following year.

22. Hunters must sign in on the sign in sheet located at the kiosk of each property.
23. Have hunters volunteer to clean up property, or some other volunteer work;
24. Increase the number of permits in Ten Mile Run Greenway;
25. Make Bunker Hill Natural Area and Cedar Grove Lane Natural Areas bow only;
26. Have fewer days of hunting—especially during Fall Foliage season;
27. Look at other open space properties that could be added;
28. Check with Montgomery Township to see what their program is and invite their coordinator to attend the next OSAC meeting;

**Franklin Township OSAC
Executive Session Minutes
April 17, 2007**

Terhune on Canal Road. Loos reported that he met with the Terhune family and they are interested in preserving their farm. The AAC will review and make recommendation on Thursday, April 19..

Connolly moved and Orsini seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

***John Loos,
Secretary/Consultant***