

**Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**May 17, 2012**

Committee Members Present: Bob Puskas, Chair, Frank Hasner, Gary Randolph, Cathy Blumig  
Meeting called to order at 8:07pm.

G. Randolph made a motion to approve Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting minutes from March.

F. Hasner seconded motion to approve minutes.

Frank did not vote since he was not at last meeting.

All Members were in favor. Motion carries.

**Open Space Trust Fund Financial Report was presented.**

F. Hasner made a Motion to accept May financial report as presented.

Cathy seconded the Motion. All members were in favor. Motion passes.

No members of the public present therefore the Committee did not open the Meeting to the public.

**Old business**

Farm outreach letters

The Committee advised the Consultant, F.Varacalli to send letters to the owners of targeted farms in Franklin Twp. to gauge their interest in farmland preservation. The Consultant is waiting for a couple of addresses from B. Puskas.

Township Farm leases on Open Space properties

The Township leases out open space properties to farmers for farming purposes. There are requirements in the leases. F. Varacalli created a spreadsheet of all the requirements and which lessors need to provide further information.

C. Blumig made a motion that F.Varacalli send the farm lease spreadsheet to the Twp. Manager in order to seek compliance with the lease requirements. B. Puskas seconded the motion.

All were in favor. Motion Carries.

**New business**

North/South bike trail

B. Puskas provided an update on the status of the N/S/ bike trails. The bike trail plan path has changed to go not travel along S. Middlebush Rd. The path will follow along Van Cleef into Six Mile Run. The current configuration has only two stream crossings instead of 4-6 stream crossings. The bike path will come out of Six Mile Run on S. Middlebush in front of Dunn and Gunther at the traffic light at Claremont/ Suydam.

F. Varacalli provided an Open Space Trust Fund Projected budget for 2012-2014 Spreadsheet to the Committee members. The Committee members did not feel the need to comment on the spreadsheet. The Committee thanked F. Varacalli for a copy.

F. Varacalli handed out copies of the 2011 Somerset County 2011 Annual Agriculture Development Board.

C. Blumig made a motion to go into Executive Session for land negotiations.

F. Hasner seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion passes.

The Committee went into Executive Session.

The Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.