

**Franklin Township  
Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund  
Advisory Committee  
Minutes April 16th, 2013**



Melba Battin-P
Robert Mettler-P
Bill Connell-P
Jack Connolly-P
Bob Vornlocker-
Mark Healy-
Randy Jones-P
Julia Presley-
Ted Chase-P

Robert LaCorte-P
John Moon-P
Alice Osipowitz-
Bob Puskas-7:30
Arnold Schmidt-P
David Triggs -P
John Herrling-P
Chris Williams-P
Phil Kramer (MP Liaison )

Meeting at Meadows Foundations, Van Wickle House

Call to order Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones in accordance with the Sunshine Law at 7:05pm Members present indicated above by (P). .

1. No Minutes
2. Financial Report: The Current balance of the OSTF is **XXXXX**  
Lacorte moved, Williams second motion to approve financial Report  
Motion Passes
3. Open first opening to public: Connell Moved, Williams seconded  
motion to open first open session.  
Seeing noone.  
Mettler moved, Connolly Seconded motion to close to the public
4. New Business
  - a. Varacalli reported being contacted by Kyle Deserio of NJ  
Rescue and Recovery for permission to use open space land for  
dog training. A discussion ensued regarding the permitted uses

on Open Space land. Varacalli was requested to get additional details.

- b. Varacalli reported deer harvest. 129 of 192 permits issued reported. 175 deer on 2012 season versus 294 in 2011. It was suggested one of the reasons for decline Hurricane Sandy and its damage to the woods. A discussion ensued regarding the current hunting policies. No major alterations were seen as being needed. Puskas moved Connell seconded, a motion to the permit lottery goes to FT residence first. Motion Passes
- c. Varacalli reported two successful well attended J& J sponsored work days April 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> An additional 3<sup>rd</sup> day is being planned
- d. Varacalli report the Date for the Open Space Master plan advisory committee meeting is April 29<sup>th</sup>
- e. Varacalli reported PSEG is reseeding damaged easement on Negri Nepoti.
- f. It was discussed Mugwart is a large problem at Griggstown and an action plan should be created. It was also mentioned Mugward is a problem at Negri Nepoti.

As a reminder: these properties have become statewide known grass areas for bird watchers. The increased sightings of various bird species previously not seen indicates the success of these areas. The deliberate and consistent management of these lands assures its continued success and value.

- 5. Old Business.
  - a. Varacalli reminded committee that April 16, meeting will be at Van Wickle House on Easton avenue at foot of Demott Lane
  - b. Open Space volunteer days: April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Advisory committee for Open Space Plan to meet April 8th

## 6. Consent Agenda

.Mettler moved , Connell seconded, motion to approve. Motions Passes

## 7. Committee Reports

Moon reported recreation is currently planning the concession stand. Pop Warner reports it does not have the money to equip it properly and is looking for ways to get Open Space to pay for it.

### Triggs reported Environmental Clean up Day

The Franklin Township Environmental Commission, in partnership with the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association (SBMWA), has scheduled an environmental stream clean-up event for Saturday morning, April 20th (9AM to 11 AM) at the Delaware & Raritan Canal at Blackwell Mills. Participants will meet at the D & R Canal State Park Office parking lot on Canal Road, just south of Blackwell Mills Road. The event is planned to continue the annual clean-up of valuable natural areas in the Township begun in 2007

Schmidt Reported on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Environmental Commission will be hosting a Seminar regarding the Eastern Coyote, presented by New Jersey Fish and Wild Life Eastern coyotes are among the most adaptable mammals in North America, easily living in rural landscapes and big cities and everywhere in between. In New Jersey, eastern coyotes live in all 21 counties including Somerset county and here in Franklin Township. On May 6, 2013 at 7 pm the Franklin Township Environmental Commission will host, “The Eastern Coyote in New Jersey” with wildlife biologist Anthony McBride of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. This presentation will provide coyote facts including information about this species’ natural history, coyote genetics, nuisance issues and controlling negative interactions including steps homeowners can take to minimize conflicts with coyotes. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn about one of Franklin Township’s most elusive wildlife residents. [http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/coyote\\_info.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/coyote_info.htm)

Varacalli reported a Rain Barrel Seminar at municipal building May 11<sup>th</sup> 10am to Noon.

## 8. Executive Session Lacorte Moved, Connell Seconded motion to go into executive session

Lacorte Moved, Triggs seconded, motion to adjourn, Motion Pass 8:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Bill Connell  
Secretary