

## FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of January 6, 2010

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Tom Charles, Township Committee Liaison, at 6:52 pm.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE

Notice of this meeting was provided by advertising in the Express Times and New Jersey Herald, the official newspapers of the Township of Frelinghuysen, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Action may be taken at the meeting as advertised.

### ATTENDANCE

Members present: Dan Carson, Tom Charles, Leigh Kramer, Maureen Cullen and Cliff Kimball

### REORGANIZATION

Reorganization of the Chair and Vice Chair will be suspended until next month. Cliff Kimball was the interim Chair for this meeting.

A motion was made by Leigh Kramer to hold reorganization off until next month when all open terms are filled, seconded by Dan Carson, all in favor – aye.

A motion was made by Tom Charles to approve the meeting dates and times for 2010, seconded by Dan Carson, all in favor - aye.

### MINUTES

Leigh Kramer made a motion to approve the revised November 4, 2009 minutes, seconded by Dan Carson, all in favor - aye. Leigh Kramer, Cliff Kimball and Tom Charles abstained.

The Minutes of the December 9, 2009 meeting will be held until the February meeting, all in favor - aye.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Forestry Management Plan – The revised Plan was submitted and mailed today per Mayor Durling. The Township Committee will appoint someone at their next meeting to handle Forestry Management. Mr. Carson inquired whether there was a website for the members to go to for information.
- Open Space/Farmland Trust Fund Balance – The combined total is \$158,821.00. Tom Charles will have a meeting with Gene McCartney to discuss a better method of handling the credits and debits for this trust fund.
- Chipper Party – Dan Carson has offered to organize and work on the next chipper party when it gets warmer and all concerns are answered as to any problems that may be associated with the school. Tom Charles will be in contact with the DPW to find out when they will chip up the remaining piles at the school. Mr. Carson offered to go up on a Saturday and chip it if the DPW cannot get it done.

### NEW BUSINESS

- The contract for The Land Conservancy has not been signed. Mr. Charles requested to hold until their next township meeting on the 20th of January, so he could read it over.
- Ms. Zilberfarb will bring a list of the targeted landowners that were sent a letter of interest, for all members to the next meeting.

## PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Durling thanked all members for being on the board and asked for their thoughts on combining the open space board with the farmland board. Mayor Durling gave his thoughts of ultimately the goal of the groups is to work together instead of pulling in two different directions.

Tom Charles feels that there is one pool of money and the commissions will lean more toward whichever group that has the stronger need at that given time and he feels that the competition is a good thing. That way the people working the hardest to preserve will get the money.

Mayor Durling stated that if both boards are competing for the same money then you could be going in different directions for different projects. Mr. Charles said that there are always other alternate ways to get funding and has always looked at the trust fund as a starting point.

Leigh Kramer feels that the farmland group now sees that open space is trying to get things preserved and that may be better. It seems to Ms. Kramer that the boards are working more jointly together at this time and feels that within the past 6 months there has been more effort to be joint groups.

Dan Carson said that although it has the same purpose in preserving the land, farmland is preserving property rights with minimal costs and open space preserves land where everyone can use the land, however have the carrying costs concerned that we are looking at two different things. Mr. Carson would love to combine the groups but feels that we are looking at two different things.

Mr. Charles feels that farmland preservation would get picked first to preserve as open space is buying the land and the costs that go with it. Feels that we need to look at two different perspectives 1). market is a good to buy land for open space right now and 2). by preserving farmland that land will not be developed.

Mayor Durling questioned the properties that we look at for open space and if it is worth it for us as a town to look into due to the costs that would be incurred. He questioned if it is a feasible idea to combine the boards.

Ms. Kramer suggested waiting a year to see how the joint meetings keep us in touch with each board, and feels at this time there is no need to combine them.

Mr. Carson feels that when limiting factors come into play, which is money, then combine and see what the towns really want. He also feels that the added costs aren't looked at enough, whether it comes from the trust fund or the general fund. We have to protect our own and think broad and think more long term.

Cliff Kimball questioned if we thought about in the past, those costs to improve the property or the maintenance on the property.

After much discussion, Mayor Durling feels that it is the best thing in this commissions opinion is to keep the boards separate at this time.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. with a motion by Dan Carson, seconded by Tom Charles. All members present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna Zilberfarb  
Open Space Commission Secretary