

**Frelinghuysen Twp. Open Space Advisory Committee
Minutes of meeting, February 6, 2008**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Robin Randolph at 6:50 p.m.

Announcement of Proper Notice

Attendance

Members present: Robin Randolph, Nancy Nicholoff, Maureen Cullen, Leigh Kramer, Alan DeCarolis, Cliff Kimball, and Jennifer McCulloch of Morris Land Conservancy.

Jennifer brought Megan Haidet, also of Morris Land Conservancy, with her. Jennifer advised that she is soon leaving the conservancy, and that Megan will take her place and do a fine job for our township.

Members absent: Donna Zilberfarb; Tom Finn - away on business

Approval of Minutes

On the minutes of January 2, a correction under the heading New Business was made. A forestry management plan has not been finished, but is being developed by Mr. Martin Rapp.

Nancy Nicholoff made a motion to approve the revised minutes; seconded by Maureen Cullen; all in favor – aye; Leigh Kramer abstained.

Old Business

1) Ordinance Revision:

- At the Farmland Preservation meeting Debra Natyzak-Osadca asked Robin Randolph to look at Ordinance no. 2006-12 so that everything, if approved, could be sent in to town as one package. The committee went over suggested revisions to the Open Space ordinance.
- Jennifer stated that the only way to ensure property will not be developed is to preserve it. She told the committee that project reference maps were much more detailed and are used before the town hires an appraiser.
- Robin Randolph asked for approval of the list of revisions to go along with the ordinance. Leigh Kramer made motion to approve; Nancy Nicholoff seconded; Roll call: Leigh Kramer – yes; Nancy Nicholoff – yes; Robin Randolph – yes; Maureen Cullen – yes; Cliff Kimball – yes; Alan DeCarolis – abstain. Robin will ask if we can have the ordinance retyped as one document, to send to the township.

2) Open Space sign:

- Maureen Cullen showed the newest revision from the graphic designer at Logo Mechanix. Maureen has since requested him to make a few more changes and email the revised copy to her prior to next

3) Native Plant Exchange:

- Robin, Leigh and Maureen will get together to work on this for spring. Residents have expressed interest in it. Although there are links to sites on N. J. native plants on our new town webpage, Maureen commented that it was not easy to notice them. Nancy will work with John Jurena to make these links stand out more.

4) Trust Fund Balance:

- A correction from December minutes: the \$300 for the oak tree should have come from the budget, not the Trust Fund.
- \$67,390.38 January Trust Fund Balance. Interest bearing account \$96,904.14.

Public Comment:

Township of Frelinghuysen

<http://www.frelinghuysen-nj.us>

Alan DeCarolis made a motion to open to the public. Cliff Kimball seconded. As there were no residents present, Alan made motion to close and Cliff seconded.

New Business:

1) Budget:

- Robin handed members a copy of a letter to the Mayor and Twp. Committee listing the 2007 accomplishments of the Open Space Advisory Committee and a budget request for 2008. Alan stated that the ordinance doesn't provide for a budget and doesn't think Open Space needs one. Robin stated that "chipper parties" were community building events and also educational. They are a way for the community to work together on a goal that will benefit all. You need money for this. Two educational forums were presented to residents. Professional fees paid to the presenters. Alan said that the Township Committee is having a budget meeting tomorrow, and he will update O.S. members on what the Twp. Committee's decision is on the budget request.
- Regarding the possible purchase of books on native plants/species for use by residents, Alan suggests they be paid for by the Environmental Commission.
- From the budget: \$3,000 was paid to Morris Land Conservancy; and the Reisburg appraisals were paid. Balance: \$96,904.14
- Webpage revision: Nancy Nicholoff asked the members to look at the webpage and make suggestions to her and John Jurena. She suggested putting the list of 2007 Open Space Accomplishments on it.
- Nancy Nicholoff reported that the \$3,000 grant application, made in December, for community forestry management has been received by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. In February we should receive notification of approval. Will need to hire a professional to help us make a plan.

Executive Session:

Alan made a motion to go into Executive Session, Cliff Kimball seconded.

Jennifer McCulloch presented a progress report on Open Space Committee's efforts.

- We have received Certified Market Value from Green Acres regarding the Reisberg property. We have a counter offer from him.
- An "outreach letter" is recommended to contact owners of potential land which Open Space and Farmland Preservation would have on their target lists for possible acquisition. Would cross reference with Farmland Preservation to prevent overlap.
- Closed projects are: Angeleri property and Riviello property.
- Dark Moon ball field, Schweitzer property and Stern property – all on hold.

Motion was made to come out of Executive session: Leigh Kramer 1st, Alan DeCarolis seconded.

Correspondence:

- Alan made a motion to send the letter of accomplishments and budget request to the Twp. Committee. Leigh Kramer seconded. Motion approved.
- A letter dated 12/14/07 from Ridge and Valley Conservancy was sent to the mayor, asking that Frelinghuysen donate \$500 to help them with operating expenses. Debra Natyzak of Ridge and Valley says they need money to operate – even small donations help. Robin Randolph stated she would rather see a partnership with them instead of sending money and not knowing where the money was used. Leigh Kramer thinks it would be in good faith, and that the money would not come from Open Space funds but from general township funds. Alan DeCarolis thinks we should send the \$500, which is a sponsor level. The majority of the Committee is for it, and Alan will convey the decision to the mayor. Robin will send a memo regarding Open Space's recommendation.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Alan at 8:35 p.m.; seconded by Leigh. All members - aye.

Respectfully submitted by,

Township of Frelinghuysen

<http://www.frelinghuysen-nj.us>

Maureen Cullen
Filling in for Donna Zilberfarb