

FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of September 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Robin Randolph, Chair, at 6:55 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: Robin Randolph, Nancy Nicholoff, Debra Natyzak, Cliff Kimball, and Maureen Cullen (7:02 pm)

NJ Land Conservancy Present: Megan Haidet

Members absent: Dan Carson and Leigh Kramer

MINUTES

Nancy Nicholoff made a motion to approve the revised July 1, 2009 minutes, seconded by Cliff Kimball, all in favor – aye. Maureen Cullen, Cliff Kimball, and Debra Natyzak abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Gersen approached the advisory board, pursuing the possibility of donating or selling his property rights as a conservation easement on 35 acre parcel, while maintaining privacy while living there. He does have a survey, appraisal - that is a year to one and a half years old - and is farmland assessed which is filed with David Gill the tax assessor.
- Ms. Randolph explained to Mr. Gersen that we are an advisory commission and we go to the Township for approval and that the process is slow. Ms. Randolph suggests walking the property.
- Megan Haidet of the Land Conservancy of NJ, discussed some things for the property owner and the township to consider and think about.
- Debra Natyzak asked about completion by end of this year. Ms. Haidet was not sure as there is much to do to, a survey including the exception area must be completed, an environmental assessment, title work, insurance, township approval etc. Mr. Gersen's concern is if it can't be completed by end of the year then he would prefer to not donate this property, as the current tax benefit ends 12/31/09 and is not yet approved to continue in 2010.
- The property owner would be incurring a few thousand dollars in expenses and questioned if that would be reimbursed. Ms. Randolph advised that with a good faith offer if it is a donation then possibly ask the township to reimburse those expenses.
- Ms. Haidet explained that the next step would be to present this property to the Township Committee, if they accept then 1). have township committee pay due diligence; or 2). reimburse at least 50%; or 3). Landowner pays costs.

- Ms. Natyzak said to get an appraisal done as a good starting point.
- Ms. Randolph, Cliff Kimball, Nancy Nicholoff and Maureen Cullen will walk this property on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and Ms. Randolph will present to township committee on the 10th at the township committee work session meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Forestry Management Plan – Plan has been approved and signed by Mayor Durling and has been sent to the state. We should hear back by the end of September.
- Open Space/Farmland Trust Fund Balance – The combined accounts balance: \$148,180.02 as of 8/31/2009.
- Chipper Party – Ms. Randolph, Mr. Carson, Ms. Nicholoff and Ms. Cullen worked through the rain and wet and completed that phase at the school.
- Open Space Signage - Ms. Cullen will bring information to the October meeting.
- Website Update - Ms. Randolph has some new open space information to post and will meet with Leigh Kramer to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

- Reisberg Property Tour – Will be Saturday the 12th at 9am. We will walk the property and meet by the big red barn.
- Open Space and Recreation Plan - All members bring their copies to next month's meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Cliff Kimball made a motion to enter executive session at 7:49 pm seconded by Maureen Cullen.
No action was taken
- Cliff Kimball made a motion to exit executive session at 8:04 pm seconded by Nancy Nicholoff.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was reviewed.

- Open Space - cover letter to Tom Gravel
- Resolution endorsing the "Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplan protection and Farmland and Historic preservation act of 2009
- Open Space - Vote "Yes" - November ballott question

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. with a motion by Nancy Nicholoff, seconded by Maureen Cullen. All members present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Zilberfarb
Open Space Commission Secretary