

Frelinghuysen Township Off-Site Meeting  
Minutes of April 14, 2007

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Boynton at 8:45 a.m.

Announcement of Proper Notice

Notice of this meeting was provided by advertising in the Star Gazette 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 representing the following boards:

Planning Board: Tom Finn  
Board of Adjustment: Dale Durling  
Environmental Commission: Rich Dericks  
Farmland Preservation Commission: Charles Schaffer  
Open Space Commission: Robin Randolph  
Recreation Committee: Chip Greene  
Educational: James Drylie

A majority of members from all committees were present, as well as, Frelinghuysen Township residents.

Introduction

This meeting is being held to get the community leaders together to prioritize issues to be able to go forward and build a better community. Deputy Mayor Boynton started the meeting off with some trivia questions for the group. He then turned the meeting over to John Jurena with an overview of the new website.

Website: [www.frelinghuysen-nj.us](http://www.frelinghuysen-nj.us)

Initially the website was being developed primarily for Open Space.- Mayor Charles decided to create it for everyone. This website is for everyone in Frelinghuysen and should get the community input. Mr. Jurena showed how the website looks and works to date. Can click on links to get to different areas. Questions were asked regarding committees not listed yet. Should there be an "under construction" page when a committee doesn't have their site ready. Mr. Jurena explained that he doesn't do that and once he gets the information from the committees he will add them to the website. Only approved meeting minutes are posted on the site. All minutes will be converted to a pdf format so anyone can read them, no matter what processor they use. Would like to archive minutes from 2006 to current. Discussed all the links that are currently available. Some of those links lead to the elementary school, tax maps, Route 80 web cams, online forms, committee contacts and other information. Mr. Jurena would like input of commonly used forms to be added. The website will grow to meet the needs of the community.- Questions were asked regarding personal information posted on the committee members through the website. Phone numbers were the biggest concern

Mayor Charles discussed issues we need to address as a community.-

Current Zoning: Are we currently zoned how we want to be?- Buildings and structures: Is this adequate?- Telecommunications: Do we need better?- Roads: Improvements needed? Change roads?- Sustaining agriculture: How do we enhance this?- Index of all qualified farms in the community: Have a virtual farmers market.- Enterprise zone: The creamery, more function?- Recreation: Are we adequately sized? More fields?- Emergency Services: Provide services that the community needs. Frelinghuysen Township needs to be a great community, therefore we need to accomplish this stuff and Mayor Charles is challenging the committees with different issues to fix and make us a great community.

### Strengths and Weaknesses

Laura Cosmillo, the facilitator who has donated her time, led the discussion of strengths and weaknesses of the Township to set up an action plan.

Thoughts on several issues were focused upon from either the committee members or from the township residents.-

Fire and rescue department started based upon volunteer status. Have in a centralized location including fire and rescue, township garage, and possibly large enough for a recreation center for the community. If all are located in the same location it is much easier to maintain and contain. For maintaining, the more we acquire the more maintenance will be required.

Concerns that the elementary school has too small of a gym and should be larger.-  
Ratables: Increase to 3 cents per 100 or even more.

How can we develop Route 94 to be friendly to the community? Add some type of manufacturing and ratables. Something with conveniences, gas station, to help the community. Need to be mindful of our wants and needs to keep our taxes low. Our community wouldn't attract a Dunkin Doughnuts or similar because of the demographics of the community. Route 94 is a good place to look at as the state would maintain parts as it is a state owned road. Some concerns with ratables were that the towns that had them had lower property values. If we want to maintain higher property values then this may not be the way for us to go forward.-

Other thoughts were age restricted housing, Professional Park with doctors and dentists, handicap housing – now only gets credit for number of bedrooms not the number of people living there. Other towns give up parcels of land the town owns to accommodate these. These all go towards COAH obligations.- Farmland Preservation: What are we doing to support these? How do we become a rural agricultural community?

Highlands has extended comment period until May. Township has asked Joe Golden to put a letter together to present to the Highlands. This will be at the next Planning Board Meeting. Due to what is going on with the Highlands we are in planning limbo. Suggestion that we start now with what we want to do and not wait for Highlands as we may not be able to do anything we want if we wait for them.-

Flood Plains- Brown Fields – Superfund sites in the community.- Eye Soars in

community need more resources?- Do we need these conveniences for our town?-  
Prioritize items and go from there.

Action Plan Decided on three main action items:-

- Increase Open Space Dollars-
- Centralized Recreation/Town Building- Brown Fields Responsible Committees:-  
Brown Fields: Environmental-
- Increase Open Space: Farmland/Open Space, Township Committee, and  
Planning Board- Centralized Buildings: Open Space, Recreation, Planning Board  
and Department of Public Works

Mayor Charles concluded that we have taken our first step towards building our  
community and at the same time making us responsible for the outcome.  
The next meeting will be in July. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Zilberfarb