

BOROUGH OF KINNELON
OPEN SPACE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2010

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm on January 13, 2010. Carol S. read the Sunshine Provision:

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of New Jersey of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was given by publishing a notice of this meeting in the January 6, 2010 edition of the Trends. This notice was also sent to the Star Ledger and North Jersey Herald News and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board

In attendance: Bob Collins, Jeff Derwin, Amanda Hagl, Mary Fisher, Karimah Munem, Gene Orcutt, Carol Sventy, and Carol Vreeland. Absent: Lucy Meyer. Also present: Mayor Glenn Sisco

Hearing from the Public: No public present

Review / approve meeting minutes:

- The minutes for the September 9, 2009 meeting were approved by a motion from Gene Orcutt and seconded by Bob Collins.
- The minutes for the November 11, 2009 meeting were tabled until the April 2010 meeting so that the committee members could review them.
- Regarding the previously approved minutes of the May 2009 meeting, Carol Vreeland asked that the following item be amended. Please refer to third bullet under the Council Committee Report. The last sentence should read as follows: "Carol V. said that this is where she got the information regarding vernal pools for the Weber Tract Citizens group's website." Further discussion then ensued regarding the definition of a vernal pool; Gene asked that if a beaver creates a small dam that creates a small pool, would this then be classified as a vernal pool. Carol V. said that a vernal pool was defined by a natural depression where water gathered by natural run off etc. Carol V. also added that while there are frogs in a vernal pool, there are no fish in a vernal pool.

Council Committee Report – Bob Collins

- Weber tract – Bob reported that the Borough is under contract and that it has been signed by both parties. At a separate council meeting the council approved the expense for a phase one environmental study of the property to ensure that the Borough is not taking on an environmentally hazardous property. Also, a survey is currently underway. The Morris County Park Commission (MCPC) has requested a sub-division of 62 acres that would be added to Silas Condict Park. The attorneys are reviewing this process to help make this happen.
- The Morris County Open Space Trust has adjusted last year's Open Space tax, it is not known what will happen this year, but it is estimated they will be re-evaluating how much is in the reserve fund and how much land the county has preserved (22,000 acres currently) through the Open Space effort and last year. Bob thought that the amount of unspent funds was approximately 4-5 million dollars. Bob did not want to speak for the entire County committee, but he felt that they might reduce the OS tax one half of a percent in an effort to help control property taxes. This has happened in prior years and said that this might happen again this year.
- Before the next meeting in April, Bob would like to speak to the NJ Land Conservancy regarding another Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant. This is basically a one page letter the Mayor would sign. A 'PIG' grant is money that is set aside without identifying a specific property or project.
- Property Prioritization – since Matt Dank is not present, Bob suggested waiting until the April 2010 meeting to discuss this with updated maps and list of identified properties. The county is looking for shared projects since these are preferred over the stand alone projects.

- The NJ Land Conservancy's contract expires in March 2010. This contract will be discussed by the Mayor and council. Carol V. asked if the new council would approve another contract, Bob responded that there are currently two council members who voted against re-hiring NJ Land Conservancy three years ago. Bob has explained the value of the NJ Land Conservancy and what a great purpose they serve. The fee is approx 12-15,000, paid from the Kinnelon Open Space Trust Fund. Carol V thought that these two council members may have a better argument this time since there are fewer parcels to preserve etc. Bob referenced the Weber Tract Public Hearing where he stated that we have an open space survey which was distributed to the public and a mandate was presented to the governing body to preserve open space, scenic vistas, and quality of our water supply. Bob also stated that this simply doesn't end with the purchase of the Weber Tract. Bob mentioned that Matt Dank talked about reaching out to Butler to see if we could secure a conservation easement around the reservoir, but Butler is very reluctant to do this.
- 5 New York Hospitals have been fined for putting medications into the sewer system. Bob said that most water purification processes do not address medications. Carol S. mentioned the recent prescription drug collection by the State of NJ police departments throughout the state and thought this might help raise awareness. Carol V. said that she would call Chilton Hospital and try and find out how they dispose of their medications or if there was a place where citizens could dispose of their medications.
- Bob thought that the OSPAC might want to look into trail development and is looking for ways to develop passive trail usage of some of the Open Space property that we have. Lucy & Jeff were involved with the NY/NJ Trail Conference at one time and perhaps someone from the Environmental Commission would be interested in helping. Carol S. said that through the CLL Hikers, there were a number of people interested in helping with this project.

Land Conservancy of NJ Report – Matt Dank

- Carol V.: regarding the Weber Tract, mentioned that there was a survey that had been going on and that there were pink markers throughout the property. She thought that the wetlands were being marked. Bob explained that phase one of the survey is to test the property for contamination, and that this property is pretty pristine. Phase one is a quick process and the survey could take a little longer. There will not be a Phase two unless is contamination of the property is found.

Old Business:

2010 Meeting Schedule – copies were handed out to all committee members

Election of OSPAC Officers – term 1 year

Carol S. made a request for a recording secretary. Bob said that he would bring this up at his next finance committee meeting. He also said that this could be paid for from the Open Space fund. Bob stated that there was precedence for a recording secretary since the Environmental Commission has a recording secretary and that this committee is appointed by the Mayor and is a formal board, with by-laws etc. Bob didn't anticipate any problems with this request.

The floor was opened for nominations for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

- Chairperson – on a motion by Jeff Derwin, seconded by Gene Orcutt Carol Sventy was nominated for Chairperson. A motion to close the nominations was made by Gene Orcutt, seconded by Bob Collins, (all in favor, none opposed). Carol Sventy elected as Chairperson.
- Vice Chairperson – on a motion by Gene Orcutt and seconded by Carol Sventy, Jeff Derwin was nominated for Vice Chairperson. A motion to close the nominations was made by Gene Orcutt, seconded by Bob Collins, (all in favor, none opposed). Jeff Derwin elected Vice Chairperson.

Kinnelon Service Directory Listing –

- Title of our committee will be corrected to Open Space Public Advisory Committee
- The dates of our meeting will be added to the Service Directory
- Only names will be listed in the directory, not our individual phone numbers

New Business –

- Carol V. mentioned a few items of interest:
 - Article regarding the power lines - mentioned this issue has been tabled due to population decline and the economy. A similar situation had occurred in Virginia. Studies are being done to see if there is a need for this upgrade.
 - Regarding the Community Garden discussion, Carol V felt that this should be specifically an organic garden
 - Carol V. asked how much the acquisition of 34 acres was. Jeff D. said it was \$1.2 million. She asked if the Borough funded any of the campaign, Jeff said that the 34 acres committee had received a \$3,500 from the NJ Conservation Foundation, which was used for creating and mailing a fundraising pamphlet and that \$10,000 was donated privately which and deposited into the general donation fund held by the then Morris Land Conservancy, all of which ultimately went to the purchase of the property (a total of approximately \$70,000). The Borough of Kinnelon did not contribute any money toward the 34 Acre acquisition.
- A motion to move into Closed Session was made by Bob Collins and seconded by Gene Orcutt.
- A motion to move out of Closed Session was made by Gene Orcutt and seconded by Amanda Hagl.
- Carol V. mentioned an article: “Dumbing Down Growth”, which regarded water issues in New Jersey. New laws had recently been passed to protect the water. Some politicians have agreed to not put these laws into effect for another two years, i.e. pollution will continue until new laws are put into effect. The Sierra Club is campaigning to send a letter to Gov. Corzine to veto this action. Bob mentioned that Gov. Corzine is in Switzerland and that the acting Gov. Cody would be the one to veto.
- Renewable Solar Energy Pilot Program – Bob said that Councilman Swalling had been looking into using this energy source on the Borough Hall and possibly a new DPW building that might be built.
- Green Team article and creating a sustainable town, Carol V. will get more information from Matt Dank and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey.
- Carol V. mentioned that the use of road salt by the DPW seems to be excessive again. She asked if they could use a brine solution or sand instead of salt. Bob said that there is a liability issue, should the road not be cleared for the public use. Bob also mentioned that if sand is used, then there is a process to dispose of the sand that is regulated by DEP. Carol V. said that there has to be other alternatives, she even mentioned that Massachusetts has reduced their use of salt by 35%. Amanda asked about the brine solution and Carol V. said that the solution is a combination of rock salt and water that is applied to road surfaces before snow/ice accumulation to help in the removal of snow & ice. Bob will follow up with John Whitehead and the Kinnelon DPW (Department of Public Works)

Next meeting: April 14, 2010 at 7:00pm

Adjournment: at 8:13pm, on a motion from Carol Vreeland to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mary Fisher.

At the April 14, 2010 OSPAC committee meeting, the minutes for January 13, 2010 were approved on a motion made by Carol Vreeland and seconded by Jeff Derwin, all present were in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Sventy.