

Open Space and Farmland Preservation Committee meeting  
March 11,2014

The meeting was called to order at 7pm on March 11, 2014. In attendance were:Staci Santucci,Deonne Boxer, Jim Jones,Grania Allport, Betty Merck and ,Jon Gibson. Art Stappenbeck and Jason Andris were absent.

The minutes for the February 2014 meeting were read and approved.

The budget was discussed once more, noting there was a change in the amount available and Staci agreed to take the budget to the township to make sure all the numbers were correct.

The letters for the Farmland Preservation were signed by Grania and sent out by Judy. There was discussion on how to handle open space preservation. It was decided to send a separate letter to land owners that are eligible for open space preservation/easement. Also, we discussed sending a thank you/would you like to preserve more letter to those who have some land in preservation now. Discussed having a speaker at one of our meeting to talk about open space and Farmland preservation to any of the public who would like to attend. Flyers would be put up at town hall and an announcement would be made at township meetings and also put on the town website.

The real estate brochures were discussed again. We talked about putting a general letter about open space and farmland preservation on the back of the brochures so they can be given to new property owners who buy land that is eligible.

Jon Gibson volunteered to go to the training session on March 15th for the Stahl Property Herpetofauna Study training session-no other committee members present could attend. Jon will find out if there is going to be another training session.

We will ask the town to submit a monthly cost for field mowing and fertilizing to keep better track of the spending instead of only doing it at year end.

March 22nd a land conservation rally is being held at Rutgers University in Piscataway at the Busch Campus Student Center. Raritan Stream cleaning is set for April 26th.

Doug Stevenson from the Somerset County open space advisory committee will be attending the April committee meeting.

The committee is doing their inspection of the open space areas on Sunday, March 30th, meeting at town hall at 1:30.

The Somerset County Planning Board is requesting a Land Stewardship Best Management Practice(BMP) case study/studies. Grania will give this to Judy to follow up on.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deonne Boxer