

**L TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 26, 2012**

Flag Salute

Sunshine Statement:

In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Law' the Regular Meeting was duly advertised by an annual notice sent to the News of Cumberland County and the Press of Atlantic City, on January 7, 2012. Notices were placed on the Municipal Office bulletin board on the same date.

Officials Present: Freitag, Shoemaker, Facemyer, Ritter. Absent: Hankins. Others Present: Sol. T. Henry Ritter, Clerk Eugene Daddario, Treasurer Lois Buttner. Others: Matt Blake, Karen Ricciuti, Melanie Halter, Robert Brewer, Robert Zimmerman, Sandy Zimmerman, Jeffrey W Shimp, Erety Smith, Michelle Adler, Meghan Price, John Roberts, Kim Roberts, Ken Freitag, Walter Sharp, Anne Sharp, Zarko Rajacich, Tom Lake, Mary Jane Lake and Planning Board Member Alfred Caggiano, Jr.

Shoemaker, seconded by Freitag, moved for **Approval of Minutes** of 1/04/12 Reorganization Meeting. Approved 3-0. (Facemyer Abstain)

Shoemaker, seconded by Freitag, moved for **Approval of Minutes** of 1/04/12 Regular Meeting. Approved 3-0. (Facemyer Abstain)

Shoemaker, seconded by Freitag, moved for **Approval of Minutes** of 1/04/12 Closed Executive Session Meeting. Approved 3-0. (Facemyer Abstain)

Facemyer, seconded by Shoemaker, moved to approve the **Treasurers Report** of 1/04/12 as submitted. Approved (4-0).

At 7:08 pm, Shoemaker, seconded by Facemyer, moved to open the **Public Hearing** on Application to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for **Green Acres** Land Acquisition Funds.

Vice Mayor, Paul J. Ritter, presented the Township Committee plan to apply for acquisition funds from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program. An application will be submitted to fund the preservation of approximately 130 acres of farm/wooded land adjacent to the Hopewell Crest School and along the Barretts Run Stream Corridor. Also included in the plan is the retention of 27 acres behind the school which will be owned by Hopewell Township and used for future school expansion with sufficient grounds for recreational fields. Mr. Ritter explained that residential development of the area would add 130-180 new homes having an extreme impact on the school system, which is already near capacity.

He emphasized that the current, depressed real estate market and the availability of low interest loans make this an opportune time to ensure the future recreational and educational excellence of the township. It will create a link of walkways/bikeways from the Bridgeton Park System to the Hopewell Township Business Park while promoting conservation and protection of waters feeding into Mary Elmer Lake, Sunset Lake, and ultimately the Cohansey River.

Steve Kehs, from Triad Associates, the firm that is submitting the Green Acres Application on behalf of Hopewell Township, summarized the process and suggested that any comments can be submitted in writing to the Township Clerk.

Committeeman Shoemaker asked if the land presently being farmed and included in this application can continue to be farmed under Green Acres guidelines. Mr. Kehs responded that farming would be permissible upon Green Acres review of the lease (short term leases are desirable) and that Hopewell Township, as owner of the land, would receive the rental fees.

Mr. Shoemaker also asked if the Green Acre funds being sought would in any way conflict with the restoration of the Sunset Lake Dam or the Bridgeton Park Raceway. He was assured that the Hopewell application was not in competition with either.

Many of the residents in attendance offered their comments:

Tony Ricciuti ó A large residential development on 158 acres would not only affect the Hopewell Crest School, the Cumberland Regional School System would also be strained.

Jeff Shimp ó Inquired about restrictions that would be placed on the land if Green Acres funding were used for acquisition; Are fields open to the public? Can the Township regulate hours? Can the playing fields be reserved for school usage during school hours?

Tom Lake ó Questioned the enforcement of regulations and suggested possible Township permits for usage.

ó Stated that the surrounding land is a necessity for the future education does not have the funds for such a purpose and they application.

Bob Zimmerman ó Noted that the last time residents gathered in regard to the land in question, it was to oppose a 136 unit development.

Matt Blake (American Littoral Society) - Preserving the river-corridor along Barrett's Run Creek could be a game-changer, because the project would result in restoring much of the land to natural conditions and forest cover, which is ideal for creating fresh, clear, clean water and aquatic health. That's the beauty of doing a project above Mary Elmer Lake. It's only fed by one creek, and if we can restore and protect the land along much of that creek, we can make the lake whole again, and by extension, help heal Sunset Lake.

Preserving Barrett's Run Creek would create a more walkable community in Hopewell ó one that could link Hopewell Crest School, the Western Cumberland Senior Center, nearby neighborhoods, the City Park, and even the Amish Market, together through trails.

Karen Ricciuti – Read from her letter of support óThere are numerous species easily observable over this acreage (for which we can attest since we live adjacent to the proposed acreage). We have observed migratory birds resting, various song birds (in our own backyard), as well as other bird species. There are returning hawks and we have observed youth eagles. Both silver fox (a rare sighting) and red fox have been seen as well as coyote, many deer with fawn (especially along the Barrett Run Creek area), as well as ground hogs, rabbits, etc.

At 7:45 pm, Facemyer, seconded by Freitag, moved to close the **Public Hearing** on Application to NJ Department of Environmental Protection for **Green Acres** Land Acquisition Funds. (Approved 4-0)

The following resolutions were approved:

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION No. 12-21
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GREEN ACRES ENABLING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (óStateö), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition and development of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$685,000 from the State to fund the following project(s): Acquisition of approximately 132 acres for active and passive recreation at an estimated cost of \$2,740,000, based on the Certified Market value as determined by Green Acres;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Township Committee of Hopewell Township resolves that Mr. Bruce Hankins or the successor to the office of Mayor is hereby authorized to:

- (a) make application for such a loan and/or such a grant,
- (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
- (c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above named applicant; and

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State's funds in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above named project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE Township Committee of Hopewell Township

1. That the Mayor of the above named body or board is hereby authorized to execute an agreement and any amendment thereto with the State known as Hopewell Township Acquisition Project;
2. That the applicant has its matching share of the project from the Township of a maximum of \$578,000 and anticipates other resources, if a match is required, in the amount of \$2,055,000. Towards this end, the Township anticipates the County of Cumberland applying for Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant funding in support of this acquisition project;
3. That, in the event the State's funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant anticipates having the balance of funding necessary to complete the project;
4. That the applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion by: Shoemaker
Aye: Ritter, Freitag, Shoemaker
Absent: Hankins

Second by: Freitag
Nay: None
Abstain: Facemyer

**WNSHIP RESOLUTION No. 12-22
FOR GREEN ACRES FUNDING BEING SUBMITTED BY
THE ACQUISITION OF LAND IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeton and Hopewell Township propose to apply for Green Acres funding to acquire land located in Hopewell Township, comprising approximately 132 acres for future use for active and passive recreation, preservation of woodlands, and enhancement of opportunities along the woodlands/stream corridor, extending generally from Township-owned land west of Route 49 and connecting to the Bridgeton City Park through Mary Elmer Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell endorses the City of Bridgeton's Green Acres Application and, per the provisions of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Bridgeton and Hopewell Township, agrees to take title to the property from the City for a nominal consideration and, within a two-year period, provide a clearly delineated linkage between the City of Bridgeton Park System and the property proposed for acquisition with Green Acres funding so as to insure public access to this property by residents of the City of Bridgeton, Township residents, and other residents who can benefit from these extraordinary active and passive recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell or its designee will be responsible for all costs associated with the preparation of the MOU and other related costs and responsibilities, as stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding, including the provision of some or all of the matching share as called for by Green Acres.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Bridgeton and Hopewell Township, which Memorandum is deemed satisfactory to both the City and the Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Hopewell fully endorses the City of Bridgeton Application for Green Acres Acquisition funding to acquire the property in Hopewell Township for active and passive recreation; acknowledges the City of Bridgeton's commitment to this effort; and, further, is committed to comply with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between Bridgeton and Hopewell Township.

Motion: Freitag

Aye: Ritter, Freitag, Shoemaker

Absent: Hankins

Second: Shoemaker

Nay: None

Abstain: Facemyer

DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrator is in receipt of 2011 Comcast franchise fees (\$10,671.83) and a letter of request to revisit Comcast application for franchise renewal. **Clerk** received the Plenary Retail Consumption License Certificate, in the name of BNM Management, LLC from the NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control on January 13, 2012. **Dog Registrar** received a thank you letter from Mary Ann Jespersen for awarding 2012 contracts to Countywide Animal Control and the Cumberland County SPCA. **Environmental Commission** submitted its 2011 Annual Report. **Fire Department** submitted FEMA Confirmation of receipt for a letter of support regarding an application by the Hopewell/Stow Creek Volunteer Fire Department for Firefighters Grant Program. **Zoning Board** submitted minutes of the January 5 Zoning Board Meeting and the 2011 Annual Review of Decisions.

Tax & Sewer Collector requested approval of the 2012 Electronic Maintenance Proposal submitted by J. H. Services Incorporated.

Facemyer, seconded by Shoemaker, moved to award the **2012 Electronic Maintenance Contract** to J. H. Services Incorporated (\$3,000.00). Approved 4-0

A bill list dated 1/26/12 prepared by Treasurer Buttner was provided. Facemyer, seconded by Freitag, motion for **Approval of bills** totaling **\$599,921.73** on the prepared list (Including Payroll/Less Hankins Bill) was approved 4-0.

Facemyer, seconded by Freitag, moved for **Approval of Hankins Bill** (\$246.08). Approved 4-0

The Vice Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments and opened the meeting to **PUBLIC COMMENTS**. Zarko Rajacich requested an update on the possible property revaluation in Hopewell Township and the status of the Cumberland/Salem Regional Municipal Court. He was informed that there has been no movement thus far regarding revaluation and the moving date for the court is scheduled for Tuesday January 31st. There being no further public comment, at 8:10pm, Shoemaker, seconded by Freitag, moved the meeting to **Old Business**.



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Bostwick Lake Commission: The Spill Gate Wheel has been locked in place at the Dam. All three townships have been given the combination. The 2012 reorganization meeting has been scheduled for 6:00 pm, on Wednesday, February 15 at the Hopewell Township Municipal Building.

NEW BUSINESS

The following resolutions were approved:

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION No. 12-19
 To Transfer 2011 Overpayments on Property Tax
 Records and Sewer Accounts to 2012 Open Balances

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, as follows;
WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has certified to the Township Committee that certain 2011 overpayments have been made and has requested that a resolution be passed to authorize the transfer of these over-payments to 2012 open balances. The Tax Collector has attached a list of these over-payments as part of the year end process.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector be authorized as part of the year end process to transfer these 2011 tax & sewer overpayments to 2012 open tax & sewer balances.

Motion: Shoemaker	Second: Facemyer
Aye: Ritter, Facemyer, Freitag, Shoemaker	Nay: None
Abstain: None	Absent: Hankins

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION NO. 12-20
 A Resolution Appointing Property Maintenance Official

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Committee has a need for more efficient maintenance of property within the Township of Hopewell, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey; and
WHEREAS, the current Construction Official for Hopewell Township has knowledge of the properties within the township and is an excellent choice for this position ; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopewell Township Committee hereby appoints Mr. Gordon Gross as the Property Maintenance Official of Hopewell Township, retroactive to January 1, 2012 at an annual salary of \$2,000.00 per year.

Motion by: Facemyer	Second by: Shoemaker
Aye: Ritter, Facemyer, Freitag, Shoemaker	Nay: None
Absent: Hankins	Abstain: None

At 8:19 pm Shoemaker, seconded by Freitag, moved to open the **Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 12-01:** Ordinance Establishing Hours Open to the Public with Respect to the Operation of Bostwick Lake and Surrounding Lands. Approved (4-0)

There being no public comment, at 8:21 pm Facemyer, seconded by Shoemaker, moved to close the Public Hearing. Approved (4-0)

The following ordinance was approved for final adoption:

TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL ORDINANCE 12-01
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING HOURS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WITH RESPECT TO THE OPERATION OF
BOSTWICK LAKE AND SURROUNDING LANDS

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell, the Township of Upper Deerfield, and the Township of Alloway are the owners of Bostwick Lake and lands surrounding Bostwick Lake as tenants in common under a deed dated September 28, 1967, from the Frank Stewart Trust to the Townships; and

have operated Bostwick Lake as a park under a Commission and

Committee of the Township of Hopewell, in consultation with the Bostwick Lake Commission, Alloway Township, and Upper Deerfield Township, is desirous of setting forth hours during which Bostwick Lake and the surrounding lands will be open to the public, and desires to set penalties for entering upon the lake and lands during hours when the premises are intended to be closed to the public; and

WHEREAS, part of Bostwick Lake and surrounding lands lies within Hopewell Township;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell as follows:

1. The lake known as Bostwick Lake and lands surrounding Bostwick Lake, sometimes known as or referred to as Bostwick Lake Park operated by the Bostwick Lake Commission shall be opened to the public every day from sunrise to sunset.

2. From sunset to sunrise Bostwick Lake and the surrounding lands shall be closed to the public and there shall be no use of the property or entry thereon by the public.

3. Any person who shall enter upon or be found upon the waters of Bostwick Lake or the surrounding lands after sunset and before sunrise shall be in violation of this ordinance.

4. Any person in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine for a first offense of not less than \$100 nor more than \$300 and for each subsequent offense a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500.

5. The Bostwick Lake Commission is directed and requested to post signage at Bostwick Lake and the surrounding lands notifying the public of the hours during which the premises are open to the public and providing signage with respect to the penalties which may be imposed for a violation of this Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective 30 days after the date of passage of an identical ordinance by the governing bodies of the Township of Alloway and Township of Upper Deerfield.

Motion By: Ritter

Second by: Freitag

Roll Call Vote:

Hankins: Absent Facemyer: Aye Freitag: Aye Ritter: Aye Shoemaker: Aye

Christine Morgan has submitted a request to use the Hopewell Township Municipal Building parking lot for a car wash to benefit the Hopewell Crest Eighth Grade Class.

Facemyer, seconded by Shoemaker, moved to grant the request for usage of the parking lot for one Saturday in the Spring of 2012 for a **Car Wash** after coordinating the date with the Township Administrator. (Approved 4-0)

Clerk Daddario reported on a conversation he had with the NJ State Police regarding recent burglaries in Hopewell Township. Since November 1, 2011 there have been 14 burglaries in the township; Three commercial burglaries on Shiloh Pike, including Mainline Delicatessen, 2 times, and the Sunoco Gas Station. Arrests have been made for both sites. Shiloh Market and Marlboro Market were both burglarized on the same evening. The police are currently working on several leads. The remaining burglaries were mostly aided by residents leaving garage doors open, windows unlocked, etc. The State Police recommend "Common Sense Prevention". They recommend that residents lock doors and windows, leave lights on when not at home, encourage neighbors to be more attentive to their surroundings and call the police if they see unusual activity.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES & FILINGS include: **Cumberland County Utilities Authority** Flows and Loadings estimates for 2012 (\$10,787.69 Credit Adjustment from 2011), 2012 Schedule of Rates, January 19th Meeting Agenda, **Cumberland County Department of Purchasing** Cooperative Contracts for On-Site Catering Services, Providing Street Sweeper, Supplying and Delivering Office Furniture and Electronic Supplies, **NJ Office for Planning Advocacy** six (6) Public Hearings for Final Strategic State Plan, **Ritter Law Office** Case Management Confirmation for January 11, 2012, **NJ Conference of Mayors** Workshop Series Notification, **NJ Office of the Governor** Notice of Conditional Veto of A3992 (Windmill Turbine Bill), **NJ State Police** (Bridgeton Station) Notice of SFC Poeppel Transfer to Port Norris, **Cumberland County Clerk** Signatures Required for Petitions, **NJ Department of Environmental Protection** Inclusion of Parcels to the Sewer Service Area, **NJ Department of State** 2012 Campaign Contribution Notice, **Robert J Pryor** Letter of Planning Board Support for Green Acres Acquisition Program, **Wells Fargo** Frank H. Stewart Grant Request Instructions, **GovConnect** New Items, **NJLM** Deadline to Introduce CY 2012 Budget Extension, New Law permits Moving of School Board Elections.



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that included in the Hopewell Township Zoning Board Annual Report J. Pryor recommending refinements of the development ordinance regarding Agricultural Activities in the Residential Zoning District and Home Occupations. He suggested discussion on these issues at the February 9th Township Committee Meeting.

At 8:35pm Shoemaker, seconded by Facemyer, moved the meeting into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of discussing personnel.

At 9:33pm the meeting was returned to **Open Session**.

There being no further business, Freitag, seconded by Shoemaker, motion to **ADJOURN** was approved by all. Vice Mayor Ritter adjourned the meeting at 9:34 pm.

Eugene Daddario, Municipal Clerk
cc:
Committee,
Township Bulletin Bd.,
Sol. T. H. Ritter, Sol. Matthew Ritter



Final

AGENDA
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
January 26, 2012

Flag Salute

Sunshine Statement:

In compliance with the 'Open Public Meetings Law' the Regular Meeting was duly advertised by an annual notice sent to the News of Cumberland County and the Press of Atlantic City, on January 7, 2012. Notices were placed on the Municipal Office bulletin board on the same date.

Roll Call: Township Committee: Hankins, Freitag, Facemyer, Ritter, Shoemaker; Others:

***Approval of Minutes** of 1/04/12 Reorganization Meeting

***Approval of Minutes** of 1/04/12 Regular Meeting

***Approval of Minutes** of 1/04/12 Closed Executive Session

Treasurers Report:

Public Hearing on Application to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for **Green Acres** Land Acquisition Funds

***Adoption of Resolution No. 12-21:** Green Acres Enabling Resolution

***Adoption of Resolution No. 12:22:** Endorsement for Bridgeton Green Acres Application

DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrator: Receipt of Comcast franchise fees (\$10,671.83), Comcast letter of request to revisit Franchise negotiations.

Assessor:

Clerk: Receipt of Plenary Retail Consumption License Certificate from NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control on January 13, 2012.

Construction Dept.:

Dog Registrar: Thank you letter from Mary Ann Jespersen for awarding 2012 contracts to Countywide Animal Control and the Cumberland County SPCA.

Convenience Center: (Hankins):

Economic Development:

Engineer:

Environmental Commission: *2011 Annual Report

Fire Department: (Hankins): FEMA Confirmation of receipt for a letter of support regarding an application by the Hopewell/Stow Creek Volunteer Fire Department for Firefighters Grant Program.

Insurance:

Public Works/Road: (Shoemaker):

Planning and Zoning Boards: *Minutes of the January 5 Zoning Board Meeting, *2011 Annual Review of Decisions

Tax & Sewer Collector: Approval of 2012 Electronic Maintenance Proposal

Senior Center: (Freitag)



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3 on Treasurers 01/26/12 prepared list (Including Payroll/Less

*Approval of Hankins Bill (\$246.08)

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

COAH: (Shoemaker) Deadlines for Spending Development Fees

TDR Project: (Shoemaker/Ritter)

Bostwick Lake Commission: Spill Gate Wheel and Lock

NEW BUSINESS

***Resolution No. 12-19:** To Transfer 2011 Overpayments on Property Tax Records and Sewer Accounts to 2012 Open Balances

***Resolution No. 12-20: Appointing Property Maintenance Official**

***Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 12-01:** Ordinance Establishing Hours Open to the Public With Respect to the Operation of Bostwick Lake and Surrounding Lands

Final Adoption of Ordinance No. 12-01

Discussion: Car Wash for Hopewell Crest 8th Grade Class

CDC: (Hankins)

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTES & FILINGS include: **Cumberland County Utilities Authority** Flows and Loadings estimates for 2012 (\$10,787.69 Credit Adjustment from 2011), 2012 Schedule of Rates, January 19th Meeting Agenda, **Cumberland County Department of Purchasing** Cooperative Contracts for On-Site Catering Services, Providing Street Sweeper, Supplying and Delivering Office Furniture and Electronic Supplies, **NJ Office for Planning Advocacy** six (6) Public Hearings for Final Strategic State Plan, **Ritter Law Office** Case Management Confirmation for January 11, 2012, **NJ Conference of Mayors** Workshop Series Notification, **NJ Office of the Governor** Notice of Conditional Veto of A3992 (Windmill Turbine Bill), **NJ State Police** (Bridgeton Station) Notice of SFC Poeppel Transfer to Port Norris, **Cumberland County Clerk** Signatures Required for Petitions, **NJ Department of Environmental Protection** Inclusion of Parcels to the Sewer Service Area, **NJ Department of State** 2012 Campaign Contribution Notice, **Robert J Pryor** Letter of Planning Board Support for Green Acres Acquisition Program, **Wells Fargo** Frank H. Stewart Grant Request Instructions, **GovConnect** New Items, **NJLM** Deadline to Introduce CY 2012 Budget Extension, New Law permits Moving of School Board Elections.

Solicitor's Report:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURN

Eugene Daddario, Municipal Clerk
cc:
Committee,
Township Bulletin Bd.,
Sol. T. H. Ritter, Sol. Matthew Ritter