MORRIS COUNTY TRAIL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2026 REORGANIZATION MEETING
March 2, 2026
Via Webex

Members Present:
Betty Cass-Schmidt, Committee Chair; Morris County Park Commissioner - Pequannock
Doug Gable, Morris County Park Commissioner – Denville
Nita Galate, Morris County Planning Board Member – Mount Arlington
Stuart Lasser, Morris County Park Commissioner President – Morris Township
Tom Malinousky, Member-at-Large – Long Hill
Greg Johnsen, Morris County Planning Board Member – Randolph
Kevin Sullivan, Member-at-Large – Chatham Township – **Arrived at 5:17 p.m.**
Mary Orloff, Member-at-Large – Florham Park

Members Absent:
Mohamed Seyam, Morris County Park Commissioner – Madison

Staff / Others Attending:
Stephen Shaw, Morris County Commissioner Director
Joe Barilla, Morris County Planning & Preservation Director
Dave Helmer, Morris County Park Commission Executive Director
Bill Johnson, Morris County Counsel
Karl Klingener, Morris County Park Commission Special Projects Manager
John Napolitano, Morris County Counsel
Denis Keenan, French & Parrello, Consulting Engineer
Courtney Wilk, AKRF Consulting Engineer

Staff / Others Absent:
Thomas Mastrangelo, Morris County Commissioner, Liaison to Planning & Preservation
Barbara Murray, Morris County Open Space Coordinator
Ed Confair, AKRF, Consulting Engineer
Christopher Statile, Consulting Engineer

Members of the Public Attending:
None

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Klingener called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and introduced the new committee members. Mr. Johnsen of the Morris County Planning Board, replaces Isobel Olcott; Mohamed Seyam, Morris County Park Commissioner, replaces Richard Seabury; and Mary Orloff of Florham Park, Member-at-Large, who replaces Leigh Ann Von Hagen.

A roll call was conducted following the introductions.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT
Adequate notice of this meeting held on the 2nd day of March, 2026 was posted on the bulletin board of the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners and posted on the County of Morris Website, and electronically mailed to the Morris County Daily Record and Star Ledger, and filed with the Morris County Clerk and the Municipal Clerk of the Town of Morristown on February 17, 2026 in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act. The above complies with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:4-10(A).

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Being that there were no members of the public present, Mr. Klingener requested a motion to open and close the meeting to public comment. The motion was made by Mr. Lasser. Ms. Galate seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Klingener opened the floor to nominations for Chairperson of the Trail Grant Advisory Committee. Ms. Galate nominated Betty Cass-Schmidt. There were no further nominations for the position of Chairperson. By voice vote, the committee selected Betty Cass-Schmidt as Chair by unanimous consent.

Mr. Klingener turned the meeting over to the Chair.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Chair Cass-Schmidt opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Trail Grant Advisory Committee. Hearing none, the Chair nominated Nita Galate. There were no further nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson. By voice vote, the committee selected Nita Galate as Vice-Chair by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Mr. Gable moved to approve the Minutes of the Morris County Trail Construction Grant Program Advisory Committee, Post Award Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2025. Ms. Galate seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous consent, with abstentions by Mr. Malinousky, Mr. Johnsen, and Ms. Orloff.

2025 SCHEDULE
Mr. Klingener shared the current schedule with the committee to identify the next steps in the grant program. All material has been updated and loaded to the website. Alyssa Ercan of the Planning Department has been extremely helpful in keeping the website updated. The following are pertinent dates on the calendar:

02/18/2026 – Press Release
03/24/2026 – Workshop Training Program
02/18/2026 – 04/15/2026 – Pre-Application Meetings
05/01/2026 – Letter-of-Intent Deadline
06/19/2026 – Application Deadline
06/19/2026 – 08/01/2026 Staff & Consulting Engineer Reviews
09/11/2026 – Final Application Submission Deadline.
09/14/2026 – 10/05/2026 – Production/Distribution of Summary Book
October/2026 – Committee Meeting

All deadlines are at 12:00 noon on the respective date.

Mr. Klingener noted that he will be away 03/14/2026 – 03/21/2026 and again 07/01/2026 – 07/08/2026.

COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR
Chair Cass-Schmidt asked Commissioner Shaw if he wished to address the committee. Commissioner Shaw stated that he is now the alternate liaison this year and Commissioner Mastrangelo is the primary. He welcomed the new members of the committee and wanted to thank all of the members for their work. This program is very popular around the County that has a great impact on the County and County residents. Staff does a great job and you are all very diligent in your work and deliberations and I just wanted to thank all of you for that on behalf of the Board and the residents of Morris County.

Chair Cass-Schmidt also thanked the Commissioner's for recognizing Isobel Olcott, who retired after being with the program since the start and served 10 years.

Mr. Sullivan joined the meeting at 05:17 p.m.

WORKSHOP

Mr. Klingener reported that the workshop training will be conducted on March 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. virtually. The slide deck is nearly complete and will cover the application process. The flow of the training will follow the rules document sequence. 17 people have registered so far and he reviewed the potential grants that may come in this year.

2026 RULES & REGULATIONS

Mr. Klingener reported that the 2026 Rules & Regulations were approved by the Morris County Board of County Commissioners by Resolution 2026-80 at the January 7, 2026 meeting. The new rules are posted on the website.

Mr. Klingener shared the County Website for the Trail Program and went through the different pages of information available to the applicants and committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cass-Schmidt asked if there was anything else the committee would like to discuss.

Mr. Helmer asked if the new committee members had been introduced to Monday.com. Mr. Klingener shared his screen and took the committee through a tour of the Monday platform and how it was used for managing the grant program. He also made an offer to conduct a separate orientation for the new members if they would like that.

Mr. Malinousky asked if the committee would still have an opportunity to ask questions of the applicants after our summary book review and before deliberations. Mr. Klingener stated that we had gotten away from doing that in the last grant cycles. By the time that the summary book reaches the committee, all of the technical reviews have been completed and applicant materials have been updated to reflect those reviews. We could add you all to the grant boards, where you could see the material, see the technical review and pose a question in that process.

There were no further questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair requested a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Johnsen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sullivan seconded and the motion was passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Klingener

Karl Klingener
Special Projects Manager
Morris County Park Commission