

**MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**

March 16, 2022

Held remotely via WebEx:

<https://morriscountynj.webex.com/morriscountynj/j.php?MTID=m09aefed5e3c88931c8acb0a3d2545e0c>

Phone In: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 2332 556 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Jay Thomson.

Members present:

Jacqueline (Jaki) Albrecht, Region III – Roxbury (joined meeting at 7:20 PM)
Patrick Antonetti, Region VI – Lincoln Park
Astri Baillie, Region VIII – Madison
Betty Cass-Schmidt, Morris County Park Commission
Jennifer Cooper, Region I – Chester Borough
Gene Feyl, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
Nita Galate, Morris County Planning Board and Trail Program Advisory Committee
Thomas Galfo, Morris County Agriculture Development Board
David Kaplan, Region V – Parsippany-Troy Hills
Suzanne McCluskey, At-Large
Robert Norton, Region IV - Wharton
Mohamed Seyam, At-Large
Jay Thomson, Region II - Randolph

Member with excused absence:

Thomas “Ace” Gallagher, Region VII – Hanover

Also attending:

Commissioner Director Stephen Shaw, Liaison, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
John Napolitano, Esq., Morris County Counsel
William Johnson, Esq., Special Counsel, Morris County Preservation Trust Fund
Joe Barilla, Director, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation

Members of the Public:

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Chairman Thomson stated that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of the meeting had been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Director Shaw introduced himself as liaison to the committee. He welcomed the membership and thanked them for their volunteer service on the committee. All members and staff introduced themselves.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Barbara Murray served as temporary Chairperson and took nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2022.

On a motion by Thomas Galfo, seconded by Astri Baillie, Jay Thomson was nominated for the position of Chairperson. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Albrecht, Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Feyl, Galate, Galfo, Kaplan, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson Nay: None Abstain: None
Jay Thomson was elected Chairperson and chaired the meeting from this point forward.

On a motion by Suzanne McCluskey, seconded by Astri Baillie, Nita Galate was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Albrecht, Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Feyl, Galate, Galfo, Kaplan, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson Nay: None Abstain: None
Nita Galate was elected Vice-Chairperson.

On a motion by Nita Galate, seconded by Astri Baillie, Jennifer Cooper was nominated for the position of Secretary. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Albrecht, Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Feyl, Galate, Galfo, Kaplan, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson Nay: None Abstain: None
Jennifer Cooper was elected Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1) Regular and Closed Session minutes of September 14, 2021 meeting - On a motion by Jennifer Cooper, second by Nita Galate, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Kaplan, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson Nay: None Abstain: Albrecht, Feyl, Galfo
- 2) Regular and Closed Session minutes of October 2, 2021 site visits - On a motion by Suzanne McCluskey, second by Nita Galate, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of the October 2, 2021 site visits. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Kaplan, McCluskey, Seyam, Thomson Nay: None Abstain: Albrecht, Baillie, Feyl, Galfo, Norton
- 3) Regular and Closed Session minutes of October 19 final presentations and deliberations - On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, second by Jennifer Cooper, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of the October 19, 2021 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Kaplan, McCluskey, Seyam, Thomson Nay: None
Abstain: Albrecht, Feyl, Galfo, Norton

Since a quorum of the committee was not present for the December 7 meeting, there

was no vote on the meeting summary.

STAFF REPORT

- 1) Morris County Policies and Procedures - John Napolitano, Esq. reviewed the Conflict of Interest policy for members. Members residing in or representing the municipality in which an application is located should recuse themselves.
- 2) 2022 Preservation Trust Fund Tax Rate – Ms. Murray stated the overall tax rate was set by the Board of County Commissioners at 5/8 cent, with the Municipal/Non-Profit grant program being allocated 1/8 cent. This translates into approximately \$1.3 M available for grants this year.

In addition, the Commissioners approved by Resolution 2022-157 at their February 9 meeting this year to move \$750,000 from the Ancillary Account to the Municipal/Non-Profit Account of the trust fund, therefore increasing the amount available for projects this year.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) 2022 Open Space Application – Ms. Murray stated the application was just released on the county website.
- 2) Timeline for Grant Round - Ms. Murray reviewed the grant timeline and process with the Committee. Until further notice and as was implemented last year, all meetings would occur remotely via WebEx. Hopefully site visits can occur in person. Applications and appraisals will be due on June 9. Ms. Murray said application summary books would be mailed to members in advance of the September 7 meeting. Site visits will tentatively occur in person on October 1. Should conditions warrant a remote meeting, they would occur utilizing a video submitted by applicants, with the in person WebEx “site visit” conference with the committee on October 1 during which members can ask questions on the video or any application materials. Final presentations by the applicants, and the committee’s deliberations on grant recommendations, will occur on October 19. Ms. Murray stated the recommendations of the Committee would be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their work session on November 9th. Action on the awards will occur at the second Commissioner meeting that month on November 21st. The Committee’s last meeting of the year will be December 15th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, the Open Space Trust Fund Committee may exclude the public to discuss matters as are provided under the Act; and

WHEREAS, said Act provided that this Committee may exclude the public from the discussion of such matters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Open Space Trust Fund Committee hereby excludes the public in order to discuss such matters. The general nature of the subject to be discussed is as follows: Purchase, lease or acquisition of real property. On a motion by Mohamed Seyam, seconded by Jaki Albrecht, the committee closed the open portion of the meeting and voted to conduct a closed session at 7:41 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting reopened to the public at 7:47 PM.

Action as a Result of Closed Session-

- a. Borough of Kinnelon/“Boonton Avenue Recreation Facility” – on a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Jennifer Cooper, the committee recommended approval of a first grant extension. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Albrecht, Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Galfo, Kaplan, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson Nay: None Abstain: Feyl

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM via WebEx for the committee’s review of the 2022 applications.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, seconded by Jaki Albrecht, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray