

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE
30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
September 4, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Chairperson Jay Thomson.

Members present:

Marcia Asdal, Region I – Chester Township
George Coogan, Region VII – Morris Plains
Nita Galate, Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board and Planning Board
Robin Jones, Region VI - Pequannock
Casey Parikh, At-Large
Don Richardson, Region VIII – Long Hill
Mohamed Seyam, At-Large
David Sprandel, Region II – Mendham Borough
Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
Matthew Tal, Morris County Park Commission (arrived 7:44 P.M.)
Jay Thomson, Morris County Agriculture Development Board

Members with excused absence:

Joyce Kanigel, Region IV – Rockaway Borough
Joseph Nametko, Region III – Netcong
Elliott Ruga, Region V – Boonton Town

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Assistant County Administrator (departed at 7:38 P.M.)
Christine Marion, Director, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
Joe Barilla, Assistant Director, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
John Napolitano, Esq., Morris County Counsel
William Johnson, Esq., Special Counsel, Morris County Preservation Trust Fund (departed at 9:06 P.M.)
Robert G. Schwarz, MAI, Review Appraiser, Morris County Preservation Trust

Members of the Public:

Frank Pinto, Greener by Design (departed at 7:09 P.M.)
Perry Mayers, Administrator, Borough of Lincoln Park (departed at 7:40 P.M.)

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Chairperson 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by George Coogan, seconded by Jay Thomson, the committee approved the minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Coogan, Galate, Jones, Parikh, Richardson, Seyam, Sprandel, Szwak, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: Asdal

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 Marcia Asdal, seconded by Nita Galate, the committee closed the open portion of the meeting and voted to conduct a closed session at 7:10 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting reopened to the public at 9:01 P.M.

Action as a Result of Closed Session-

Borough of Lincoln Park/”Midwood Flood Storage Area Acquisition” – on a motion by Don Richardson, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee recommended approval of a second grant extension. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Asdal, Coogan, Galate, Jones, Parikh, Richardson, Seyam, Sprandel, Szwak, Tal, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

2. Site Visit and Final Applicant Presentation Schedule - Ms. Murray circulated the sign-up sheets for the site visits and reviewed the final presentation schedule with the committee. Ms. Murray indicated the committee’s policy is to require each member to visit at least 40% of the sites to participate in deliberations. Members can visit sites on their own to attain the attendance requirement.

NEW BUSINESS/ INFORMATION

1. Open Space Program – 25th Anniversary Event
Ms. Murray stated on October 18, two events will occur to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Open Space Trust Fund. The morning event will occur at 10 AM at Prospect Park in Jefferson. A trail was constructed from the park leading to the new Liffy Island Boardwalk Bridge, funded in part with a grant from the county’s Trail Program. Liffy Island was the first project to receive a grant and close under the open space grant program.

The afternoon event will occur at 2:30 P.M. at Giralda Farms, part of the county's Loantaka Brook Reservation park located in Chatham Township. The Giralda Farms project received the largest grant ever in the open space grant program (\$10,000,000). She encouraged all members to attend one or both events.

(At this point, Jay Thomson, John Napolitano, Esq. and Mohamed Seyam left the meeting room.)

2. Madison Recreation Center Diversion – Ms. Murray stated staff met with representatives of Madison in the previous months about a diversion of approximately two acres from the Madison Recreation Center property, which was funded in part with Morris County open space trust fund dollars. She stated an application had not yet been received but is anticipated in mid-September. Once received and deficiencies satisfied, the committee would review the application and conduct at least one public hearing (possibly two). She advised this would require extra meetings by the committee. Ms. Murray stated she would keep the committee apprised of the status.

(At this point, Jay Thomson, John Napolitano, Esq. and Mohamed Seyam returned to the meeting room.)

NEXT MEETING DATE

Ms. Murray stated the next regularly scheduled meeting is for applicant presentations on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 beginning at 6:00 P.M. at the County Library located at 30 East Hanover Avenue in Whippany, NJ. Members would be notified if a meeting was necessary prior to that date.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by George Coogan, seconded by Robin Jones, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray