

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

September 14, 2021

Held remotely via WebEx:

<https://morriscountynj.webex.com/morriscountynj/j.php?MTID=mc78b7dd3d324c27722874fb296141237>

Phone In: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 179 367 6717

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Jay Thomson.

Members present:

Patrick Antonetti, Region VI – Lincoln Park
Asti Baillie, Region VIII – Madison
Betty Cass-Schmidt, Morris County Park Commission
Jennifer Cooper, Region I – Chester Borough
Nita Galate, Morris County Planning Board and Trail Program Advisory Committee
Thomas “Ace” Gallagher, Region VII – Hanover
David Kaplan, Region V – Parsippany-Troy Hills
Suzanne McCluskey, Region VII – Morris Plains
Robert Norton, Region IV – Wharton (left meeting at 9:03 PM)
Mohamed Seyam, At-Large
Jay Thomson, Morris County Agriculture Development Board

Members with Excused Absence:

Jacqueline (Jaki) Albrecht, Region III – Roxbury
Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

Also attending:

John Napolitano, Esq., Morris County Counsel
Joe Barilla, Director, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
William Johnson, Esq., Special Counsel, Morris County Preservation Trust
Robert G. Schwarz, MAI, Review Appraiser, Morris County Preservation Trust

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Astri Baillie, second by Suzanne McCluskey, the committee approved the regular minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cooper, Galate, Gallagher, Kaplan, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: Cass-Schmidt

On a motion by Astri Baillie, second by Suzanne McCluskey, the committee approved the closed session minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cooper, Galate, Gallagher, Kaplan, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: Cass-Schmidt

On a motion by Jennifer Cooper, second by Nita Galate, the committee approved the regular minutes of the July 14, 2021 special meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Gallagher, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: Baillie, Kaplan

On a motion by Betty Cass-Schmidt, second by Mohamed Seyam, the committee approved the Closed session minutes of the July 14, 2021 special meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Gallagher, McCluskey, Norton, Seyam, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: Baillie, Kaplan

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 Nita Galate, seconded by Astri Baillie, the committee closed the open portion of the meeting and voted to conduct a closed session at 7:21 P.M.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The meeting reopened to the public at 9:07 P.M.

1. Action as a Result of Closed Session-

- a. Township of Chester – “Black River Fields” – on a motion by Astri Baillie, seconded by Suzanne McCluskey, the committee recommended approval of a second grant extension. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Galate, Gallagher, Kaplan, McCluskey, Seyam
Nay: None Abstain: Cooper, Thomson
- b. Township of Roxbury – “Veterans Park Addition” – on a motion by Astri Baillie, seconded by Nita Galate, the committee recommended approval of a second grant extension. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Gallagher, Kaplan, McCluskey, Seyam, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

2. Site Visits – via WebEx

Ms. Murray stated site visits will occur via WebEx on October 2 at 8:45 – 11 AM. Members will have the opportunity to view a 10-minute video submitted by applicants prior to the meeting; these are currently uploaded onto OneDrive and members have been provided a link to access them. Any visits to the properties must be arranged on their own. Applicants will be present for the October 2 meeting to answer any questions on their videos, or application materials.

3. Applicant Final Presentations – via WebEx

Ms. Murray stated final presentations will also occur via WebEx the evening of October 19 at 6:00 PM. Applicants will present a live PowerPoint slideshow during the meeting and be available to answer any final questions about the applications prior to deliberations on that same night.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Diversion Rules – Ms. Murray stated all members received a copy of the final draft prepared by the subcommittee. The rules revisions have been an ongoing project for over a year and the final draft has been reviewed by County Counsel John Napolitano. She thanked the subcommittee members for their participation. On a motion by Astri Baillie, seconded by Suzanne McCluskey, the committee recommended submittal of the final draft to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption as an amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Trust Fund. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Gallagher, Kaplan, McCluskey, Seyam, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

(David Kaplan was moved to the lobby.)

2. Adoption of a Resolution Memorializing Committee action on a Minor Diversion located on a portion of the Smith Road Sheep Farm property (Block 736 – Lot 9.01) in Parsippany-Troy Hills Township –

Ms. Murray stated members received a draft resolution memorializing the action of the Committee at its special meeting of July 14. The committee recommended approval to divert a 0.164-acre portion of the property for the construction of a replacement well 20, pump house and access drive, as well as \$11,619 in monetary compensation to Morris County. On a motion by Nita Galate, seconded by Astri Baillie, the committee recommended approval of the resolution. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Antonetti, Baillie, Cass-Schmidt, Cooper, Galate, Gallagher, McCluskey, Seyam, Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Kaplan

(David Kaplan was admitted back to the meeting.)

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 8:45 A.M. via WebEx for site visits with applicants.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Nita Galate, seconded by Mohamed Seyam, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray