

**MEETING SUMMARY
MORRIS COUNTY
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**

December 7, 2021

Held remotely via WebEx:

<https://morriscountynj.webex.com/morriscountynj/j.php?MTID=m05a36b6afb9a7ee71048bd44fa600942>

Phone In: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 233 753 77430

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

Members present:

Betty Cass-Schmidt, Morris County Park Commission
Jennifer Cooper, Region I – Chester Borough
Thomas “Ace” Gallagher, Region VII – Hanover
David Kaplan, Region V – Parsippany-Troy Hills
Mohamed Seyam, At-Large
Jay Thomson, Morris County Agriculture Development Board

Members with Excused Absence:

Jacqueline (Jaki) Albrecht, Region III – Roxbury
Patrick Antonetti, Region VI – Lincoln Park
Asti Baillie, Region VIII – Madison
Nita Galate, Morris County Planning Board and Trail Program Advisory Committee
Suzanne McCluskey, Region VII – Morris Plains
Robert Norton, Region IV – Wharton
Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

Also attending:

Commissioner Director Stephen Shaw, Liaison, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
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

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.

Ms. Murray noted for the record that a quorum of the committee was not present and that the meeting would be for information only with no formal action taken.

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Commissioner Director Shaw recognized departing committee members Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority representative and Jay Thomson, CADB representative with formal framed resolutions highlighting their open space service and other Morris County volunteering efforts. He praised their efforts and thank them for their service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Murray stated the minutes will be tabled due to lack of a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Application Review Process – Ms. Murray stated the last meeting of the year is typically used to solicit feedback from members on the review process. She noted it was the second year WebEx was utilized for site visits and final presentations. She was particularly interested in how new members found the review process and application materials.

It was noted all municipalities will be faced with affordable housing obligations and the preservation of open space will be a consideration. The municipal trust fund information was helpful when considering grant requests.

Although COVID restrictions this round prevented actual site visits as a group, members concurred that as a hybrid meeting model was adopted to get back to some semblance of onsite visits, since everything cannot be captured in a video.

Some members experienced some technical issues with One Drive, particularly with accessing it with a passcode and downloading materials.

2. Morris County Open Space Master Plan Element – Ms. Murray stated a work plan is being created to update this document. Director Joe Barilla noted it will involve a county wide update to the inventory.

INFORMATION

1. Parsippany Water Utility Minor Diversion – Ms. Murray stated the minor diversion was heard and approved by the State House Commission on November 29th. Green Acres is working with Special Counsel William Johnson and Parsippany’s Counsel to prepare and record the diversion documents.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mohamed Seyam, seconded by Jennifer Cooper, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray