

**MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
March 26, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 P.M. by Chairperson Rick Watson.

Members present:

Larry Gindoff, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
James Humphreys, Region V - Boonton Township
Greg Keller, Morris County Agriculture Development Board
Don Kuser, Region IV - Denville
Dev Modi, Region VIII - Harding
Annabel Pierce, Morris County Planning Board
Guy Piserchia, At-Large
William Roehrich, Region I - Washington Twp.
Kathy Valva, Region III - Jefferson
Rick Watson, At-Large
Kim Wentworth, Morris County Park Commission

Members with excused absence:

Timothy Dougherty, Region VII - Morristown
Janet Foster, Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board
Veronica Hedgepath, Region II - Victory Gardens
Linda Roetman, Region VI - Riverdale

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Department of Planning & Public Works
Christine Marion, Director, Morris County Division of Planning & Preservation
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Division of Planning & Preservation
John Napolitano, Esq., Special Counsel, Morris County Open Space Trust Fund

Members of the public:

None

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Rick Watson introduced himself and invited all members and staff to introduce themselves as well.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Chairperson Watson 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Deena Leary served as temporary Chairperson and took nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2015.

On a motion by Larry Gindoff, seconded by Kim Wentworth, Rick Watson was nominated for the position of Chairperson. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Gindoff, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Pierce, Piserchia, Roehrich, Valva, Watson, Wentworth. Nay: None Abstain: None
Rick Watson was elected Chairperson and chaired the meeting from this point forward.

On a motion by Larry Gindoff, seconded by Don Kuser, Kathy Valva was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Gindoff, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Pierce, Piserchia, Roehrich, Valva, Watson, Wentworth. Nay: None Abstain: None
Kathy Valva was elected Vice-Chairperson.

On a motion by Kathy Valva, seconded by William Roehrich, Larry Gindoff was nominated for the position of Secretary. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Gindoff, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Pierce, Piserchia, Roehrich, Valva, Watson, Wentworth. Nay: None. Abstain: None.
Larry Gindoff was elected Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Kathy Valva, seconded by Rick Watson, the committee approved the regular session minutes of the December 8, 2014 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Gindoff, Kuser, Roehrich, Valva, Watson, Wentworth Nay: None
Abstain: Humphreys, Keller, Modi, Pierce, Piserchia

On a motion by Larry Gindoff, seconded by Don Kuser, the committee approved the closed session minutes of the December 8, 2014 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Gindoff, Kuser, Roehrich, Valva, Watson, Wentworth Nay: None
Abstain: Humphreys, Keller, Modi, Pierce, Piserchia

STAFF REPORT

1. Ms. Barbara Murray outlined membership responsibilities for the committee. Mr. John Napolitano, Esq. reviewed the County’s policies governing conflict of interest and attendance at meetings with the committee.
2. 2015 Preservation Trust Tax Rate - Ms. Christine Marion stated the tax used to fund all Preservation Trust programs was held at 1 cent for 2015 by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. All open space programs are allocated 9/20 of the total 1 cent, of which the municipal/non-profit grant program receives 20%.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Disclosure Forms - Ms. Marion stated it is the opinion of County Counsel that the actions of the Open Space Trust Fund Committee are purely advisory in nature and therefore do not fall within the definition of a local government agency. As such, members of Committee are not required to file a financial disclosure form

for their membership on the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund Committee.

2. Project Status Report – Ms. Murray reviewed the list of recent and projected closings with the Committee.
3. Ms. Murray reviewed the grant timeline and process with the Committee. Ms. Murray stated both applications and appraisals will be due on June 19. A licensed appraiser will review each appraisal submitted and resolve any discrepancies with the applicants prior to the committee’s review in September. This will be the fifth year of formal appraisal review by the licensed appraiser for all applications. In August, staff prepares materials for an application summary booklet for members to use on the field visits, which will be scheduled for September. Final presentations by the applicants will occur in October, as will the committee’s final deliberations on grant recommendations. Ms. Murray stated that this year, the recommendations of the Committee will be presented to the Board of Chosen Freeholders at their meeting on November 9th. Action on the awards will occur at the second Freeholder meeting that month on November 23rd.

(At this point, Guy Piserchia left the meeting room).

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 William Roehrich, seconded by Kathy Valva, the committee entered into executive session at 7:54 P.M.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:02 P.M.

(At this point, Guy Piserchia returned to the meeting room).

ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION

Township of Long Hill/“Gillette Riverwalk Park” – On a motion by William Roehrich, seconded by Kathy Valva, the committee voted to approve a first grant extension for the project, to expire October 1, 2015. Aye: Gindoff, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Pierce, Roehrich, Valva, Watson, Wentworth Nay: None
Abstain: Piserchia

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2015 in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Office of Planning & Public Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey at 7:30 P.M. To

date, there are no action items for the meeting. The meeting will be formally cancelled if no items require action by that date.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Don Kuser, seconded by William Roehrich, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray