

**MINUTES**  
**MORRIS COUNTY**  
**OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**  
**30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey**  
**March 30, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairperson Rick Watson.

Members present:

Ed Engelbart, Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board  
Larry Gindoff, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority  
Kathy Hammond, Region III - Jefferson  
James Humphreys, Region V - Boonton Township  
Greg Keller, Morris County Agriculture Development Board  
Don Kuser, Region IV - Denville  
Dev Modi, Region VIII - Harding  
Guy Piserchia, At-Large  
William Roehrich, Region I - Washington Twp.  
Linda Roetman, Region VI – Riverdale  
Barbara Shepard, Morris County Park Commission  
Donald Travisano, Region II - Dover  
Rick Watson, At-Large

Members with excused absence:

Mary Dougherty, Region VII - Morristown  
Annabel Pierce, Morris County Planning Board

Also attending:

Deborah Smith, Alternate Freeholder Liaison, Morris County Division of Planning & Preservation  
Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Department of Planning & Public Works  
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Division of Planning & Preservation  
John Napolitano, Esq., Morris County Counsel

Members of the public:

Steve Blaizer, Long Valley resident  
Joyce Kanigel, Councilwoman, Rockaway Borough  
Kathy Haake, Rockaway Borough Environmental Commission  
Bob Bodenstein, Canal Society of New Jersey  
Bob Canace, Conservation advising services for Roxbury Township

**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.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Blaizer, Long Valley resident stated he wished to speak against the Washington Township police shooting range proposal. John Napolitano, Esq. informed Mr. Blazier that Washington Township formally withdrew their request before the Open Space Trust Fund Committee and the matter was not on the agenda.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Ms. Deena Leary served as temporary Chairperson and took nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2016.

On a motion by Kathy Hammond, seconded by Greg Keller, Rick Watson was nominated for the position of Chairperson. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Shepard, Travisano, Watson Nay: None Abstain: None  
Rick Watson was elected Chairperson and chaired the meeting from this point forward.

On a motion by Bill Roehrich, seconded by Guy Piserchia, Kathy Hammond was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Shepard, Travisano, Watson.  
Nay: None Abstain: None Kathy Hammond was elected Vice-Chairperson.

On a motion by Kathy Hammond, seconded by Guy Piserchia, Larry Gindoff was nominated for the position of Secretary. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Shepard, Travisano, Watson.  
Nay: None. Abstain: None. Larry Gindoff was elected Secretary.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Greg Keller, seconded by Don Kuser, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Travisano, Watson Nay: None Abstain: Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Shepard

On a motion by Greg Keller, seconded by Don Kuser, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of the September 19, 2015 site visits. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Watson Nay: None Abstain: Shepard, Travisano

On a motion by Don Kuser, seconded by Ed Engelbart, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of September 30, 2016 site visits. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Kuser, Modi, Watson Nay: None Abstain: Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Shepard, Travisano

On a motion by Greg Keller, seconded by Guy Piserchia, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of October 21, 2015 final presentations. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Travisano, Watson Nay: None Abstain: Modi, Shepard

On a motion by Don Kuser, seconded by Greg Keller, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of October 22, 2015 final presentations. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Piserchia, Roehrich, Travisano, Watson Nay: None Abstain: Modi, Roetman, Shepard

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **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 Bill Roehrich, seconded by Kathy Hammond, the committee entered into executive session at 7:39 P.M.

### **RETURN TO MEETING**

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

#### 1. Actions as a Result of Closed Session -

a. Borough of Rockaway-"Ogden Parcel Open Space Acquisition" - On a motion by Greg Keller, seconded by Linda Roetman, the committee voted to approve a first six month grant extension and amendment for the project, to expire October 1, 2016. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Shepard, Travisano, Watson  
Nay: Humphreys Abstain: None

b. Canal Society of NJ/"Morris Canal Greenway-Shippenport" - On a motion by Bill Roehrich, seconded by Kathy Hammond, the committee voted to approve a first six month grant extension for the project, to expire October 1, 2016. Aye: Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Humphreys, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Roetman, Shepard, Travisano, Watson Nay: None Abstain: None

2. Timeline for Grant Round - Ms. Murray reviewed the grant timeline and process with the Committee. She stated both applications and appraisals will be due on June 17. 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 sixth 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 the recommendations of the Committee will be presented to the Board of Chosen Freeholders at their meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Action on the awards will occur at the second Freeholder meeting that month on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **STAFF REPORT**

1. Ms. 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. 2016 Preservation Trust Tax Rate - Ms. Murray stated in March, the Board of Chosen Freeholders set the 2016 tax used to fund all Preservation Trust programs at 7/8 cent. Of this amount, the municipal/non-profit grant program was allocated 13/62 cent.
3. Morris County Trail Program – Ms. Murray stated on November 4, 2014, the voting electorate of Morris County approved the ballot question to allow trail development as an allowable use under the trust fund by a margin of nearly three to one. Program details have been developed through a collaborative effort of staff of both the Morris County Park Commission and Division of Planning and Preservation. A presentation on the proposed program will occur at the Freeholder work session on April 13. Applications will be accepted this year and workshops are scheduled for May and June to describe the program details. The county will issue press releases announcing the program.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016 in the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 James Humphreys, seconded by Linda Roetman, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray