

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
April 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Frank Pinto.

Members present:

Julie Baron, Morris County Park Commission
Robert Collins, Region VI - Kinnelon
Paula Danchuk, Region III – Mount Arlington
Joe Donegan, At-Large
Ted Eppel, Morris County Planning Board
Len Fariello, Region VII – Hanover
Jasmine Lim, Region V – Parsippany-Troy Hills
Leon Moreau, At-Large
Kathy Murphy, Region I – Mount Olive
Deborah Nielson, At-Large
Michael Obremski, Region II – Randolph
William O’Connor, Region VIII – Chatham Township
Greg Poff, Region IV – Rockaway Township
Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

Member with excused absence:

Louise Davis, Morris County Agriculture Development Board

Also attending:

Frank T. Pinto, Jr., Director, Morris County Department of Planning & Development
Ray Chang, Director, Morris County Preservation Trust
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Preservation Trust
John Napolitano, Esq., Special Counsel, Morris County Open Space Trust Fund

Members of the public:

Christopher Raths, Roxbury Township Manager (left meeting at 7:53 P.M.)
David Stierli, Director, Roxbury Township Dept. of Parks and Recreation (left meeting at 7:53 P.M.)
David Epstein, President, The Land Conservancy of NJ (left meeting at 8:25 P.M.)
Mark Taylor, Councilman, Borough of Florham Park (left meeting at 8:07 P.M.)
Nancy Gage, Business Administrator, Borough of Florham Park (left meeting at 8:07 P.M.)

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Frank Pinto 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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Frank Pinto served as temporary Chairperson and took nominations for the position of Chairperson.

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Michael Obremski, Robert Collins was nominated for the position of Chairperson. Mr. Pinto asked if there were any other nominations for Chairperson. On a motion by Laura Szwak, seconded by William O'Connor, Len Fariello was nominated for the position of Chairperson. At the request of Ted Eppel, each nominee provided their background and qualifications. Mr. Pinto then distributed ballots with committee members' names for casting the votes. The votes were tallied by Special Counsel John Napolitano. The following nine (9) votes were cast for Robert Collins: Baron, Collins, Donegan, Eppel, Lim, Moreau, Nielson, Obremski, Poff. The following five (5) votes were cast for Len Fariello: Danchuk, Fariello, Murphy, O'Connor, Szwak. There were no abstentions. Robert Collins was elected Chairperson and chaired the meeting from this point forward.

On a motion by Ted Eppel, seconded by Joe Donegan, Len Fariello was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: None
Len Fariello was elected Vice-Chairperson.

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Len Fariello, Laura Szwak was nominated for the position of Secretary. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: None
Laura Szwak was elected Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Gregory Poff, the committee approved the minutes of the March 21, 2011 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: Moreau

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Disclosure Forms – Ms. Barbara Murray reminded the committee that two copies of the financial disclosure form, each with an original signature, were due to the County Clerk's office by no later than April 30, 2011.

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 Gregory Poff, seconded by Julie Baron, the committee closed the open portion of the meeting and voted to conduct a closed session at 7:45 P.M.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:43 P.M.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

1. Township of Roxbury/Landing Recreation Project: On a motion by Jasmine Lim, seconded by Ted Eppel, the committee voted to maintain the previously approved second grant extension expiration date as the application due date for the 2011 funding round (i.e., June 24, 2011). A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: None
2. Borough of Florham Park/Passaic River Greenway: On a motion by Deborah Neilson, seconded by Julie Baron, the committee voted to maintain the previously approved second grant extension expiration date as the application due date for the 2011 funding round (i.e., June 24, 2011). A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: None
3. Borough of Florham Park/Stobaeus Park Addition: On a motion by Len Fariello, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee voted to approve a first six-month grant extension for the project. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: None

(At this point, Laura Szwak left the meeting room.)

4. Canal Society of NJ/Morris Canal Greenway-Allamuchy: On a motion by Ted Eppel, seconded by Len Fariello, the committee voted to maintain the previously approved second grant extension expiration date as the application due date for the 2011 funding round (i.e., June 24, 2011). A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff Nay: None Abstain: None
5. Canal Society of NJ/Morris Canal Greenway-Shippenport: On a motion by William O'Connor, seconded by Michael Obremski, the committee voted to approve a first six-month grant extension for the project. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff Nay: None Abstain: None

(At this point, Kathy Murphy left the meeting room.)

6. Twp. of Mt. Olive & The Land Conservancy of NJ/South Branch Preserve: On a motion by Ted Eppel, seconded by William O'Connor, the committee voted to approve a first six-month grant extension for the project. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff Nay: None Abstain: None

(At this point, Laura Szwak and Kathy Murphy returned to the meeting room.)

7. Township of Hanover/Bee Meadow Greenway: On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by William O'Connor, the committee voted to approve a first six-month grant extension for the project. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Nielson, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: Fariello

(At this point, Deborah Nielson left the meeting room).

8. Township of Montville/MarketPlace and Van Ness: On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Jasmine Lim, the committee voted to approve a first six-month grant extension for each project. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Danchuk, Donegan, Eppel, Fariello, Lim, Moreau, Murphy, Obremski, O'Connor, Poff, Szwak
Nay: None Abstain: None

(At this point, Deborah Nielson returned to the meeting room.)

Project Status Report

Mr. Pinto reviewed the past and upcoming closings with the committee.

Creation of Subcommittee – Criteria for Evaluation of Open Space Applications

Mr. Pinto solicited volunteers for this subcommittee to assess benchmarks and measurable goals to evaluate the success of the program. He envisioned approximately three meetings before the committee reconvened in September. The subcommittee will be comprised of Preservation Trust staff, David Helmer (Executive Director, County Park Commission), Glenn Schweizer (Executive Director, County Municipal Utilities Authority), plus the following committee members: Robert Collins, Len Fariello, Laura Szwak, Ted Eppel.

Release of 2011 Open Space Application Form

Mr. Pinto informed the committee the 2011 application form would be released soon. This year, it will be completed online in a live database in a secure environment. A project map must also be created online through the Morris County Public Resource Interactive Mapping Application (MCPRIMA) Public Land Management Tool.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2011 in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Development, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey at 7:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by William O'Connor, seconded by Len Fariello, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray