

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room, Morristown, New Jersey
September 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 P.M. by Frank Pinto.

Members present:

Julie Baron, Morris County Park Commission
Louise Davis, Morris County Agriculture Development Board
Joseph Donegan, At-Large
Len Fariello, Region VII – Hanover
John Manna, Region IV - Wharton
Michael Obremski, Region II – Randolph
William O’Connor, Region VIII – Chatham Township
Jim Rilee, Region III – Roxbury
Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
Susan Wright, Region I – Chester Borough

Members with excused absence:

Robert Collins, Region VI - Kinnelon
George Coogan, At-Large
Stu Klatzman, Morris County Planning Board
Mimi Letts, Morris Tomorrow

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

Mr. Frank Pinto announced the resignation of Chairman Dr. Joseph Weisberg and opened the floor to nominations for a new chair. On a motion by William O’Connor, seconded by Jim Rilee, Vice-Chairperson Stu Klatzman was nominated for the position of Chairperson. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Davis, Donegan, Fariello, Manna, Obremski, O’Connor, Rilee, Szwak, Wright
Nay: None Abstain: None
Stu Klatzman was elected as Chairperson.

Since Stu Klatzman was the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Pinto opened the floor to nominations

for a new Vice-Chairperson. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by John Manna, William O'Connor was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Davis, Donegan, Fariello, Manna, Obremski, O'Connor, Rilee, Szwak, Wright Nay: None Abstain: None
William O'Connor was elected as Vice-Chairperson and chaired the meeting from this point forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee approved the regular minutes of the April 16, 2010 meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Baron, Fariello, Manna, Obremski, O'Connor, Szwak Nay: None
Abstain: Davis, Donegan, Rilee, Wright

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the committee approved the closed session minutes of the April 16, 2010 meeting as amended to show Laura Szwak left the room for the discussion on the South Branch Headwaters Preserve project. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Fariello, Manna, Obremski, O'Connor, Szwak
Nay: None Abstain: Davis, Donegan, Rilee, Wright

CLOSED 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 subjects to be discussed is as follows: Purchase, lease or acquisition of real property. On a motion by Jim Rilee, seconded by Michael Obremski, the committee entered into closed session at 7:39 P.M.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting returned to open session at 9:00 P.M. The following members were present: Baron, Davis, Donegan, Fariello, Manna, Obremski, O'Connor, Rilee, Szwak, Wright. Also present: Frank Pinto, Ray Chang, Barbara Murray, John Napolitano, Esq.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

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

Request for Amendment to Grant Agreement/“South Branch Headwaters Preserve” (NJ Conservation Foundation) - On a motion by Len Fariello, seconded by Michael Obremski, the committee agreed to recommend the partial assignment and assumption of the grant agreement to the Washington Township Land Trust for the project. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Davis, Donegan, Fariello, Manna, Obremski, O'Connor,

Rilee, Wright Nay: None Abstain: None
(At this point, Laura Szwak returned to the meeting room).

SITE VISIT AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Ms. Barbara Murray circulated the sign-up sheets for the site visits and reviewed the final presentation schedule with the committee. Ms. Murray indicated the committee's policy is to require each member to visit at least 40% of the sites to participate in deliberations. Members can visit sites on their own to attain the attendance requirement.

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Ms. Murray reviewed the list of recent and anticipated closings with the committee.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Laura Szwak inquired how much money would be available this funding round. Mr. Pinto replied the final figure would not be known until the Abstract of Ratables is printed in late October, but it was estimated that approximately \$15 million would be available. Ms. Szwak inquired the source of the historic preservation program trust fund allocation. Mr. Pinto replied the 2010 value equals ¼ cent from the open space tax authorized for the prior year 2009. Ms. Szwak recommended the County's Open Space Master Plan from 1988 be updated since decisions should be based on a plan. Mr. Pinto stated the document has been on the list of plans to update.

NEXT MEETING DATE

There will be no regular meeting in October. The committee will reconvene on the first night of applicant presentations on Thursday, October 21, 2010 beginning at 6:30 P.M. at the County Library located at 30 East Hanover Avenue in Whippany, NJ.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by member Jim Rilee, seconded by member Louise Davis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 P.M. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray