

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 P.M. by Chairperson Klatzman.

Members present:

Julie Baron, Morris County Park Commission
Robert Collins, Region VI - Kinnelon
George Coogan, At-Large
Louise Davis, Morris County Agriculture Development Board
Joe Donegan, At-Large (arrived at 7:37 P.M.)
Len Fariello, Region VII – Hanover
Stu Klatzman, Morris County Planning Board
Mimi Letts, Morris Tomorrow
John Manna, Region IV – Wharton (arrived at 7:37 P.M.)
Michael Obremski, Region II – Randolph
Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

Members with excused absence:

William O’Connor, Region VIII – Chatham Township
Jim Rilee, Region III – Roxbury
Susan Wright, Region I – Chester Borough

Also attending:

Jack Schrier, Freeholder Liaison (departed at 7:50 P.M.)
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:

None

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.

RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Freeholder Liaison Jack Schrier recognized the open space program accomplishments of the following present committee members whose terms will expire at the end of 2010: Mimi Letts, George Coogan and John Manna. Each member was given a framed resolution and thanked for their years of service on the committee.

Obremski, Szwak

Nay: None

Abstain: None

2. Application Review Process – Ms. Murray stated the last meeting of the year is used to review the past funding round and solicit input from the committee on suggested changes. Members discussed the application form, review procedure, site visit schedule, format of the summary book and secure website. Members believed an additional level of professional review should be performed on appraisals and suggested a county review appraiser be utilized for this purpose. It was suggested the appraiser be Green Acres certified. Ms. Laura Szwak believes the review process should demonstrate how measurable goals are being achieved. The goals of the County’s open space plan can be quantified and prioritized. It is possible to map green infrastructure and demonstrate how critical gaps are being filled. She acknowledged towns have their own acquisition priorities identified in their plans. There is a balance of values that open space can provide; these will vary by town. Mr. Len Fariello stated preserved projects should be posted on the website. Mr. George Coogan discussed the timing of public comment at final presentations. Although not an issue this funding round, members agreed public comment should be limited to 3 minutes per person in order to allow adequate time for all public comments.

On a motion by Len Fariello, seconded by Stu Klatzman, the committee recommended staff investigate the use of a Green Acres certified county review appraiser for 2011 applications, and amend the Rules and Regulations to limit public comments to three (3) minutes during final presentations. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Baron, Collins, Coogan, Davis, Donegan, Fariello, Klatzman, Letts, Manna, Obremski, Szwak Nay: None Abstain: None

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 George Coogan, seconded by Louise Davis, the committee entered into executive session at 8:42 P.M.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting re-opened to the public at 8:52 P.M.

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Ms. Murray reviewed the list of recent and anticipated closings with the committee. Recent closings include the South Branch Headwaters Preserve property in Washington Township (sponsored by NJ Conservation Foundation) and Castlerock Preserve in Jefferson Township. Anticipated closings by the end of the year include 4 properties under Phase IV of the Pompton Riverwalk project (Pequannock Township) funded this

year, and 3 properties in Florham Park under the Stobaeus Park Addition project.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Louise Davis, seconded by Mimi Letts, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray