

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE
30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany, New Jersey
October 25, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairperson Watson.

Members present:

Thomas Donadio, Region V – Boonton Township
Mary Dougherty, Region VII - Morristown
Edward Engelbart, Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board
Larry Gindoff, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
Kathy Hammond, Region III - Jefferson
Greg Keller, Morris County Agriculture Development Board
Don Kuser, Region IV – Denville
Dev Modi, Region VIII - Harding
Guy Piserchia, At-Large
Bill Roehrich, Region I – Washington Twp.
Barbara Shepard, Morris County Park Commission
Rick Watson, Region VII – Morris Twp.

Members with excused absence:

Annabel Pierce, Morris County Planning Board
Linda Roetman, Region VI – Riverdale
Donald Travisano, Region II - Dover

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., Morris County Counsel
Robert G. Schwarz, MAI, Review Appraiser, Morris County Preservation Trust (arrived at 8:40 P.M.)

Members of the Public:

Paula Danchuk, Lake Rogerene Civic Association
Jerimiah Tobin, Lake Rogerene resident
Robin Anderson, Lake Rogerene resident
Greg Puskas, Lake Rogerene resident
Marlene Ackerman, Lake Rogerene resident
Stan Fork, Mount Arlington resident
Alexandra Danenberg, Lake Rogerene resident
Andrew Danchuk, Lake Rogerene Civic Association

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, Township of Hanover, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals spoke regarding the Mount Arlington “Lake Rogerene Open Space” application:

Paula Danchuk, Trustee of the Lake Rogerene Civic Association, stated the mission of their group is to care for Lake Rogerene. There is development proposed both upstream and downstream of the lake, and maintaining the property immediately upstream adjacent to the lake as open space will protect water quality. She spoke in favor of the application.

Jerimiah Tobin has seen wildlife on the subject property and wants to have the area remain rural. He spoke in favor of preservation.

Robin Anderson said the preserving the forest protects the drinking water. Many of the homes around Lake Rogerene use groundwater for their water supply. She believes there is a responsibility to protect the land for this resource.

Greg Puskas said the area has sustained development pressure. The inflow to Lake Rogerene is on the subject property. The preservation would allow trail connections to the Ice Age trail in Roxbury. It is the last large property left in the Borough.

Marlene Ackerman moved from the city to this area. She asked the committee to please consider the application for preservation. She has seen wildlife on the property.

Stan Fork has been a resident for 30 years. Membership in the Civic Association has dwindled. Surface runoff has led to the overgrowth of weeds in the lake. The association installed an aeration system to combat this problem.

Alexandra Danenberg is a new resident to the area. She was attracted to the beauty and serenity. She asked the committee to consider the application to keep the community as it is.

Andrew Danchuk is a resident of the area for 30 years and purchased his starter home in this area. He asked the committee to save the tract to save the community. He also stated the trails on the property could be connected to the Ice Age trail on the adjacent tract located in Roxbury.

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 Greg Keller, seconded by Kathy Hammond, the committee closed the open portion of the meeting and voted to conduct a closed session at 6:22 P.M.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 9:52 P.M.

ACTIONS AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION

1. “Bee Meadow Greenway-Phase III”/Township of Hanover – On a motion by Don Kuser, seconded by Bill Roehrich, the committee recommended an exception be made to normal closing procedures due to administrative oversight. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Donadio, Dougherty, Engelbart, Gindoff, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Shepard, Watson. Nay: Hammond Abstain: None
2. 2016 Open Space Recommendations – On a motion by Mary Dougherty, seconded by Bill Roehrich, the committee recommended transmitting their 2016 open space grant recommendations to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for approval, per the discussion held in executive session with abstentions and dissensions for specific projects as noted. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Donadio, Dougherty, Engelbart, Gindoff, Hammond, Keller, Kuser, Modi, Piserchia, Roehrich, Shepard, Watson. Nay: None Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ed Engelbart, seconded by Dev Modi, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray