

**MINUTES  
MORRIS COUNTY  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**

**September 29, 2020**

Held remotely via WebEx:

<https://morriscountynj.webex.com/morriscountynj/j.php?MTID=m45b2a08b4e05c59046af5193b451060c>

Phone In: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 173 009 1886

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Jay Thomson.

Members present:

Jacqueline (Jaki) Albrecht, Region III – Roxbury  
Jennifer Cooper, Region I – Chester Borough  
Nita Galate, Morris County Planning Board and Trail Program Advisory Committee  
Robin Jones, Region VI - Pequannock  
Suzanne McCluskey, Region VII – Morris Plains  
Robert Norton, Region IV - Wharton  
Kaushik (Casey) Parikh, At-Large  
Don Richardson, Region VIII – Long Hill (arrived 7:20 P.M.)  
Elliott Ruga, Region V – Town of Boonton  
Mohamed Seyam, At-Large  
David Sprandel, Region II – Mendham Borough  
Laura Szwak, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority  
Matthew Tal, Morris County Park Commission  
Jay Thomson, Morris County Agriculture Development Board

Also attending:

John Napolitano, Esq., Morris County Counsel  
Joe Barilla, Director, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation  
Barbara Murray, Open Space Program Coordinator, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation  
Ray Chang, Historic Preservation Trust Fund Program Coordinator, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation  
Robert G. Schwarz, MAI, Review Appraiser, Morris County Preservation Trust

Members of the Public:

None

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

Chairman Thomson 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.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Laura Szwak, second by Nita Galate, the committee approved the minutes of the July 30, 2020 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Albrecht, Cooper, Galate, McCluskey, Norton, Parikh, Ruga, Seyam, Szwak, Thomson      Nay: None  
Abstain: Jones, Richardson, Sprandel, Tal

## **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 Suzanne McCluskey, seconded by Jennifer Cooper, the committee closed the open portion of the meeting and voted to conduct a closed session at 7:08 P.M.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reopened to the public at 9:18 P.M.

### **1. Action as a Result of Closed Session-**

United Methodist Church Property Acquisition” – on a motion by Laura Szwak, seconded by Robin Jones, the committee recommended approval of a second grant extension. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Albrecht, Cooper, Galate, Jones, Norton, Parikh, Richardson, Ruga, Seyam, Szwak, Tal      Nay: McCluskey, Thomson  
Abstain: Sprandel

### **2. Site Visits – via WebEx**

Ms. Murray stated site visits will occur via WebEx on October 3 from 8:30 – 11 AM. Members will have the opportunity to view a 10 minute video submitted by applicants prior to the meeting; these are currently uploaded onto OneDrive and members have been provided a link to access them. Any visits to the properties must be arranged on their own. Applicants will be present for the October 3 meeting to answer any questions on their videos, or application materials.

### **3. Applicant Final Presentations – via WebEx**

Ms. Murray stated final presentations will also occur via WebEx the evenings of October 20 and 21 at time to be determined that will be provided to all members. Applicants will present a live PowerPoint slideshow during the meeting, and be available to answer any final questions about the applications prior to deliberations on the second night.

## **INFORMATION**

### **1. Diversions –**

(Jay Thomson was moved to the lobby.)

Glen Alpin Diversion - Ms. Murray stated Part 1 of the Final Application was submitted to Green Acres and the County. The next step would be hearings. A meeting was held

with the applicants, County and State to determine a total of eight hearings would be required based on various statutes. The County Open Space Trust Fund Committee hearing will be last, since all transcripts from the previous ones need to be submitted for your review. It is anticipated the committee would hear the matter in late winter or spring of 2021. The County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board will have a separate hearing for their rules.

(Jay Thomson was admitted back to the meeting.)

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 8:30 A.M. via WebEx for site visits with applicants.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Nita Galate, seconded by Robin Jones, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray