

**MINUTES  
MORRIS COUNTY  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND COMMITTEE  
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey  
March 30, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairperson Rick Watson.

Members present:

Marcia Asdal, Region I – Chester Twp.  
Tom Donadio, Region V – Boonton Twp.  
Ed Engelbart, Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board  
Larry Gindoff, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority  
Joyce Kanigel, Region IV – Rockaway Boro.  
Greg Keller, Morris County Agriculture Development Board  
Joseph Nametko, Region III - Netcong  
Guy Piserchia, At-Large  
Donald Travisano, Region II – Dover (arrived 7:36 P.M.)  
Rick Watson, At-Large

Members with excused absence:

Mary Dougherty, Region VII – Morristown  
Dev Modi, Region VIII - Harding  
Annabel Pierce, Morris County Planning Board  
Linda Roetman, Region VI – Riverdale  
Barbara Shepard, Morris County Park Commission

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

Members of the Public:

None

**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, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson Rick Watson introduced himself and invited all members and staff to introduce themselves as well.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Ms. Deena Leary served as temporary Chairperson and took nominations for the position

of Chairperson for 2017.

On a motion by Greg Keller, seconded by Guy Piserchia, Rick Watson was nominated for the position of Chairperson. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Asdal, Donadio, Engelbart, Gindoff, Kanigel, Keller, Nametko, Piserchia, Watson  
Nay: None Abstain: None

Rick Watson was elected Chairperson and chaired the meeting from this point forward.

On a motion by Guy Piserchia, seconded by Greg Keller, Larry Gindoff was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Asdal, Donadio, Engelbart, Gindoff, Kanigel, Keller, Nametko, Piserchia, Watson

Nay: None Abstain: None

Larry Gindoff was elected Vice-Chairperson.

On a motion by Larry Gindoff, seconded by Ed Engelbart, Guy Piserchia was nominated for the position of Secretary. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Aye: Asdal, Donadio, Engelbart, Gindoff, Kanigel, Keller, Nametko, Piserchia, Watson

Nay: None Abstain: None

Guy Piserchia was elected Secretary.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Tom Donadio, seconded by Ed Engelbart, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Donadio, Engelbart, Gindoff, Keller, Watson Nay: None  
Abstain: Asdal, Kanigel, Nametko, Piserchia

On a motion by Tom Donadio, seconded by Ed Engelbart, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of the September 24, 2016 site visits. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Donadio, Engelbart, Gindoff, Keller, Watson Nay: None  
Abstain: Asdal, Kanigel, Nametko, Piserchia

On a motion by Tom Donadio, seconded by Ed Engelbart, the committee approved the regular and closed session minutes of October 25, 2016 final presentations. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Donadio, Engelbart, Gindoff, Keller, Piserchia, Watson  
Nay: None Abstain: Asdal, Kanigel, Nametko

#### **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 Guy Piserchia, seconded by Don Travisano, the committee entered into executive session at 7:41 P.M.

## RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 7:52 P.M.

1. Actions as a Result of Closed Session -
  - Township of Jefferson - “Babbling Brooke” - On a motion by Larry Gindoff, seconded by Joseph Nametko, the committee voted to approve a first six month grant extension for the project, to expire October 1, 2017. Aye: Asdal, Donadio, Engelbart, Gindoff, Kanigel, Keller, Nametko, Piserchia, Travisano, Watson  
Nay: None Abstain: None
2. Project Status Report – Ms. Murray stated the Cataract Park (applicant: Washington Twp.) and Morris Canal Greenway-Boonton Gateway (located in Boonton Town; applicant: Canal Society of NJ) projects from 2015 were withdrawn by the respective applicants.
3. Timeline for Grant Round - Ms. Murray reviewed the grant timeline and process with the Committee. She stated both applications and appraisals will be due on June 16. A licensed appraiser will review each appraisal submitted and resolve any discrepancies with the applicants prior to the committee’s review at the September meeting. This will be the seventh year of formal appraisal review by the licensed appraiser for all applications. In August, staff prepares materials for an application summary booklet for members to use on the site visits, which are scheduled for September. Final presentations by the applicants will occur in October, as will the committee’s final deliberations on grant recommendations. Ms. Murray stated the recommendations of the Committee will be presented to the Board of Chosen Freeholders at their work session on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Action on the awards will occur at the second Freeholder meeting that month on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

## STAFF REPORT

1. Ms. Murray reviewed the County’s policies governing conflict of interest and attendance at meetings with the committee.
2. 2017 Preservation Trust Tax Rate - Ms. Murray stated on March 22, the Board of Chosen Freeholders set the 2017 tax used to fund all Preservation Trust programs at 7/8 cent. Of this amount, the municipal/non-profit grant program was allocated 13/62 cent. Further information on the tax allocation is available on the preservation trust fund website.
3. Morris County Trail Program – Ms. Murray provided a presentation on the status of the Morris County Trail Construction grant program. The first year of the program was completed in 2016. The program operates as a collaborative effort of the Morris County Park Commission and Division of Planning & Preservation. Grants are awarded for the construction of trails on permanently preserved public parkland or private land with dedicated recreational trail easements. Applications are reviewed by the County’s Trail Program Advisory Committee based on criteria including connectivity, constructability, access, and demand; construction documents and cost estimates are also evaluated. All projects require a 20% match and the average award was approximately \$50,800. A total of 13 applications from 13 municipalities were

awarded grants totaling approximately \$661,000. In the first year, a total of 6.178 miles of new recreational trails were proposed of various surface and user types.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2017 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Office of Planning & Public Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey at 7:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Joseph Nametko, seconded by Ed Engelbart, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Murray