



HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PLANNING SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Hunterdon County Administration Building
314 Route 12, Suite 140
County Complex, Bldg. # 1
PO Box 2900 Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund Program

Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Notes of September 19th, 2016

AGENDA 1. POSAC convened on Monday September 19th, 2016, at the Route 12 Hunterdon County Complex, Flemington, NJ. Chair Steeves welcomed those in attendance and the meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: EARLE STEEVES, Chair, H. JORDAN GUENTHER, RENEE MCNAMARA, SUZANNE WILDER
Excused: CAROL HOFFMANN, GERRY LYNESS, BILL BOWLBY

AGENDA 2. **Approval of the July 18th, 2016 Meeting notes:** Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve the minutes. Suzanne Wilder seconded. Motion passed.

AGENDA 3. Review/Final Recommendation Municipal Grant Applications

- **Milford Borough – A&L Reclamation Project:** Staff presented the details of the Borough's plans to acquire the former gas station site at the north end of town. The NJDEP has completed an extensive environmental cleanup of the site and has placed a lien on the property. The lien will be vacated if the Borough acquires the site for a municipal park. The Borough requests the use of its municipal grant to hire an attorney for the foreclosure proceedings. Suzanne Wilder made a motion to approve the application conditioned on the actual acquisition of the property. Renee McNamara seconded. Motion passed.

AGENDA 4. Review/Final Recommendation Nonprofit Grant Program Applications

- **New Jersey Conservation Foundation/Hunterdon Land Trust - Higgins** – NJCF representatives presented the application for the Higgins acquisition on behalf of both New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Hunterdon Land Trust. Both applications are seeking 20% of the final purchase cost. NJCF proposes to acquire the property to allow for public access and add to the trail network in the area, adjoining it to the existing 600 acres currently managed by NJCF. The Committee discussed the large amount of funding required for this purchase and weighed the request against the available funds. The Committee came to the consensus to table the discussion for the November POSAC meeting in order to understand the full scope of Nonprofit applications vying for funding.
- **Tewksbury Land Trust - Treanor** – The representative for Tewksbury Land Trust presented the application for the Treanor acquisition as a nonprofit application. The Committee discussed the score of this application vs the Higgins application and noted that it ranked lower. The Committee reiterated their concerns brought up during the Coop application discussion in July regarding the lack of connectivity to other parcels. The Committee requested that Tewksbury Land Trust provide additional details about possible trail connectivity to adjacent parcels. The Committee took no action.

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AGENDA 5. Review/Final Recommendation Cooperative Grant Program Applications

- Tewksbury Land Trust - Pye – The Tewksbury Land Trust representative presented background information as an explanation of the configuration of the application. The main point of the acquisition is to add to the 10 mile trail network in the area. This acquisition provides a key linkage. Renee McNamara made a motion to approve the application. Suzanne Wilder seconded. Motion passed.
- Delaware Township - Millner – Staff presented the application for the Millner acquisition and the request to increase the funding amount from the previously requested 30% to the full 50% allowed under the program. This makes best use of the County funds and reduces the complexity of the funding scheme. Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve the change in the funding amount. Suzanne Wilder seconded. Motion passed.

AGENDA 6. – PARKS OPERATIONAL

- Woodfern Property- public access/trail bridge – Staff presented the proposal to build a bridge on an existing rail road substructure along the abandoned rail Right of Way on the Woodfern property. The property is not currently open to the public because of the hazard the old trestle creates. Parks Staff had applied for a grant to cover the minimal cost of installation but did not receive the award. The Committee made a recommendation to fund the bridge using the Open Space Trust Fund making note that any steps to open up parkland to the public was a good use of funds. Renee McNamara made the motion. Suzanne Wilder seconded. Motion passed.
- Prescott Bridge update – Staff gave an update as to the status of the Prescott Bride. DEP permits were granted and the contractor is preparing to start work.
- South Branch Wildlife Management Area - Staff gave an update on a proposal by a Hunterdon area school to paint murals in the tunnel that connects the Arboretum to Echo Hill. The Committee supports the idea as long as there is adequate oversight as to the content of the murals.

AGENDA 7. – NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

- Red Mill historic preservation request – Staff presented the Red Mill special request for historic preservation funding for repairs to the water wheel. The Committee discussed additional details they would like from the Mill including detailed urgency of the project, how the wheel will operate in the future, how it will be protected in the future, and an outline of the whole project.
- Strategic Parks Plan - Staff gave an update to the status of the Strategic Parks & Open Space Plan and the public survey. A more detailed update will be provided at the next meeting.
- Dog Park – Staff presented the topic of moving the dog park currently located at the Route 12 Complex. The dog park was originally placed at Route 12 as a temporary measure until a more permanent location could be found. The County is now looking for guidance as to where that permanent location should be considering the state of disrepair of the current fence and the need for costly repairs. Various locations were discussed including Hoffmann Park, Hilltop Preserve, near Deer Path Park, among others.

- AGENDA 8. – POSAC/PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Staff and the Committee discussed the need for a separate location for battery powered model aircraft, issues regarding hunting buffers on parkland and an update to the Summer Nature Program success.

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AGENDA 9. – FREEHOLDER COMMENTS - NONE

AGENDA 10. - ADJOURN – Having no further business, Renee McNamara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jordan Guenther seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by: *Bill Millette*, November 21st, 2016