



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 March 19th, 2018

AGENDA 1. POSAC convened on Monday March 19th, 2018, at the Route 12 Hunterdon County Complex, Flemington, NJ. Earle Steeves welcomed those in attendance and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: EARLE STEEVES, H. JORDAN GUENTHER, JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH, DONALD BROUGHTON, SUZANNE WILDER, KENNETH NOVAK, GERRY LYNESS, BILL BOWLBY

Excused: all present

The meeting began with an introduction of new Committee member Joshua Goldman. Mr. Goldman introduced himself and gave a brief background.

AGENDA 2. Approval of the November 20th, 2017 Meeting notes: Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve the minutes. Don Broughton seconded. Gerry Lyness, Bill Bowlby and Josh Goldman abstained from the vote. Motion passed. Ken Novak was not present for the vote.

AGENDA 3. Review/Final Recommendation Municipal Grant Applications

- **Readington Township – Loughlin Purchase:** Staff presented the Township’s request to utilize a portion of their grant balance toward the purchase of the Loughlin tract, a property along Round Mountain. Ken Novak made a motion to approve. Bill Bowlby seconded. Motion passed.
- **Tewksbury Township – Livingston/Berry farmland easement:** Staff presented the information regarding Tewksbury Township’s application to utilize a portion of their grant to cover their portion of the cost of acquiring a farmland preservation easement on the subject property. Ken Novak made a motion to approve. Don Broughton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **High Bridge Borough – Lake Solitude Debt Service:** Staff presented the Borough’s request for the remainder of their grant balance to be used toward the payment of debt service related to the acquisitions of the Lake Solitude property. Ken Novak made a motion to approve. Juergen Huelsebusch seconded. Motion passed.

AGENDA 4. – NONPROFIT GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTS

- **Tewksbury Land Trust/NJCF – Turnquist Farm Acquisition:** Representatives from New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Tewksbury Land Trust presented their co-joined applications for the purchase of the Turnquist Farm, a preserved farm that is located along the envisioned 10 mile trail loop in Tewksbury Township. The Committee discussed at length the details of purchasing in fee a preserved farm for open space purposes. Issues discussed were previous funding through the farmland program, how the property would be managed to be compatible with the two uses, farmland and public recreation, hunting, conservation easements, and maintenance.

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Ken Novak made a motion to table both applications until the July meeting when the Committee would have a better idea of how many more applications would be submitted for the nonprofit program. Juergen Huelsebusch seconded. Motion passed.

- D&R Greenway - Francavilla: The Committee felt it prudent to discuss this application, along with its co-joined Cooperative Application from Raritan Township, at their May meeting. Ken Novak made a motion to defer the applications to the May meeting. Don Broughton seconded. Motion passed with Josh Goldman abstaining.

AGENDA 5. – COOPERATIVE GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTS

- Kingwood Township – Pine Brook Acquisition: Staff presented the details of the Pine Brook Acquisition as proposed by Kingwood Township. The Committee has previously seen this request in 2017. The project has since moved forward and the Township is requesting a 50% cost share. The Committee requested that the Township consider keeping in the ridge when determining the subdivision line to ensure preservation of possible viewsapes. Don Broughton made a motion to approve the application. Suzanne Wilder seconded. A rollcall vote was taken with Ken Novak voting against and all remaining members voting for. Motion passed.
- Readington Township –Loughlin Acquisition: The application details were given by staff. This application is done in conjunction with the Township’s Municipal Grant request for the same property. A motion to approve was made by Ken Novak and seconded by Don Broughton. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting in favor.
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation – Wertsville Industries: Representatives from NJCF were present to provide the details and background on their request for funding the acquisition of the Wertsville Industries property. The Committee discussed topics that included future plans for the property, who maintains the deeded ownership, and what would happen if NJCF were to not be able to continue with maintenance and ownership of the property. The Committee was also concerned about the large amount of funding that was requested in relation to the available funding for the 2018 funding round. Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve the application. Juergen Huelsebusch seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Bill Bowlby voting against and the remaining members voting for. Motion passed.

AGENDA 6. – PARKS OPERATIONAL

- Staff discussed various updates to projects happening in the Parks including the implementation of QR Codes for access to trail maps as our trail heads, the opening of the ponds as Hoffman Park for fishing, the Prescott Bridge, the golf course club house timeline, and the status of the pond at Deer Path Park.

AGENDA 7. – NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- Staff gave an update as to the draft Strategic Parks & Open Space Plan and the Committee discussed changes and clarifications needed to the plan. An estimated timeline was reviewed as part of the plan adoption.
- The Committee and Staff discussed two potential properties that are available that would make good additions to the County Park system. Staff presented property along the South Branch of the Raritan River that is adjacent to State and municipal land. The property also continues the greenway along the river that the county has been pursuing. Additional land was discussed along Round Mountain, a continuation of preserving the totality of the mountain. Suzanne Wilder made a motion to recommend pursuit of these properties. Jordan Guenther seconded. Motion passed.

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AGENDA 9. – POSAC/PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

AGENDA 10. - ADJOURN – *Having no further business, Gerry Lyness motioned to adjourn. Ken Novak seconded. Meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully prepared and submitted by: *Bill Millette*, May 21st, 2018.