

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING

McDade Administration Building
Planning Department (4th Floor)
640 South Broad Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08650-0068

****Meeting via Zoom online platform due to Covid-19****

April 5, 2022

PRESENT:

Leslie R. Floyd
Haig Kasabach, Chair
Alan Hershey, Vice Chair
Tricia Fagan
Michael Shine
Kristine Walsh
Wendy Mager

REPRESENTATION:

County Executive
Assunpink Rep.
Piedmont Rep.
Cultural Heritage
Planning Board Rep.
Ag. Board Rep.
Millstone Rep.

ABSENT:

Anthony Cucchi

Park Commission Rep.

NON-VOTING:

Acting Board Secretary
Lisa Fritzingler

Assistant Planning Director

PUBLIC:

Chairman Kasabach called the February 1, 2022 meeting of the Mercer County Open Space Preservation Board to order at 5:02 PM.

I. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Ms. Fritzingler announced that pursuant to the Sunshine Law, notice of this meeting was mailed to the Trenton Times and was posted on the County Planning Department's website, including a public zoom meeting link and instructions.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hershey made a motion to approve the February 1, 2022 minutes. Mr. Shine seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Hamilton Grant request for purchase of the Hamilton YMCA Sawmill Day Camp

The Hamilton YMCA, due to financial reasons, desires to sell the Sawmill property. Hamilton Township proposes to buy it and will lease it back to the Y to continue their programs. The County holds the easement and it is restricted for outdoor recreation and day camp. The County had looked at purchasing the land but decided that it wasn't in the County's best interests. In exchange for County assistance the County will get additional land for the Crosswicks Greenway and shared parking.

B. Discussion on Special Occasion Events (SOE) on preserved farmland

Ms. Mager questioned how county preserved farmland will be affected by the proposed SOE Legislation. Ms. Walsh explained that preserved farms, like a winery, may have events such as weddings. This legislation addresses event space on preserved farmland. Ms. Mager explained that she understood that the legislation would allow preserved farms 15% of the land be available for SOE and up to 26 events per year. Ms. Floyd responded that she is concerned that it would be administered by the County that has over 90 farms. It is being perceived as a way to help the farmers. The SADC is also looking at new soil protection standards retroactive to all farms, also to be administered by the County.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE: None

VIII. CLOSED SESSION (if necessary): None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Approved October 11, 2022



Lisa K. Fritzinger, Acting Secretary