

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
FEBRUARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

**Hunt Barn
197 Blackwell Road
Pennington, NJ 08534**

- Commissioner Schulz called the February 26, 2020 meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to order at 5:30 pm, at the Hunt Barn. 197 Blackwell Road, Pennington, NJ 08534.

ROLL CALL

- **The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:**
 - o Commissioners: Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith.
 - o Commissioner Davis and Smith joined the meeting via phone conference.

- **The following Commissioners were absent:**
 - o Commissioners Longo and Mooij.

Commissioner Schulz led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

SUNSHINE LAW

In accordance with the Sunshine Law (Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in that notification was given as follows: mailed to the Times, Trentonian and the Mercer County Clerk and posted in the Court House and Joyce McDade Administration Building.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 29, 2020 Park Commission Public Meeting:

- In voice vote, the January 29, 2020 the Park Commission Public Meeting minutes were approved a presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None.
Abstain-None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

Approval of February 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Bills:

- In voice vote, the February 2020 Mercer County Park Commission bills were approved for payment as presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None.
Abstain-None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

Approval of November/December 2019 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports:

- In voice vote, the January 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports were approved as presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None.
Abstain-None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

- Mr. Alex Rivera, Land Steward is named the Park Commission’s Employee of the month. Mr. Rivera began his employment with the Park Commission for the Stewardship Department in October of 2018.
- **Nominated by:**
Executive Director, Aaron T. Watson

OLD BUSINESS**PROJECTS UPDATE:***(Deputy Director, Joe Pizza)*

- **2020 Annual Day of Golf**-Mercer County Park Commission Golf Courses are scheduled to host the 2020 Annual Day of Golf on March 6, 2020.
- **Princeton Country Club Restrooms Renovation**-The renovation project for the restrooms located at the Princeton Country Club facility has been completed.
- **Moore's Station Quarry Master Plan RFQ** – On February 18, the review committee held interviews with firms who submitted requested qualifications. Three (3) teams have been invited to attend a site visit to the quarry on March 3; and then will be given the opportunity to submit proposals by March 23. Based on staff review of the proposals, a final recommendation will then be presented to the Park Commissioners for consideration at a future meeting.
- **Challenge Ropes Course** – Ropes course engineers are in the process of developing design specifications, based on research provided by outdoor adventure course operators. A proposal has been submitted for consideration to expand the design scope to include a zip line into the course design.
- **Henry Phillips Barn West Wing Rehabilitation Project** – The Purchasing Department has provided a draft of the bid package, as well as a tentative bid schedule, which are currently under review for finalization to advertise for public bidding. Purchasing will determine the Schedule of Values parameters and determine new dates.
- **Mercer Oaks Clubhouse Door Replacement** – Public Bids were opened and read on February 21, 2020. Five (5) firms submitted bids for the project; two (2) bids were under the cost estimate. The low bidder was 1st Line Locksmith; the second lowest bidder was Padovani Construction.
- **Paving Mercer Stables Driveway and Problem Areas of Mercer Meadows / LHT Trails (Mount Construction, \$1,895,093.20, 180 Calendar Days from Notice to Proceed)** –Formal Notice to Proceed is anticipated to be issued early next month.
- **Stony Brook Pedestrian Bridge** – Construction of other sections of trail and boardwalk are moving forward. Contracted consulting firm, Engineering and Land Planning (E&LP) will provide a cost estimate for modifications required to bolster rainwater management in certain areas; the firm is considering some stonework and additional boardwalk.
- **MCP Festival Grounds Concession** –The sewer line will need to be completed prior to the start of Phase 1 of the project. It is anticipated that Phase 2 Sewer Line project will begin in the Spring of 2020; and the Concession project will begin construction in the Fall of 2020.

- **Mercer Lake Bank Restoration** – Following a request by the Park Commission, contracted consulting firm, Engineering & Land Planning (E&LP) has revised project specifications to allow for additional lake view frontage to accommodate regattas and Princeton National Rowing Association events. E&LP's revised proposal includes an expanded Scope of Services to accommodate the request along with provisions to secure new permits from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The revised proposal is currently under review by Executive Staff for consideration on the subsequent Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting Agenda.
- **Mercer County Park Spray Park** – This project was awarded at the December 4, 2019 Park Commission Meeting to contractor, V&K Construction, \$478,648.00, 180 Calendar Days from formal Notice to Proceed. Formal Notice to Proceed will be issued upon confirmation that permitting has been finalized. It is anticipated that work will begin in March 2020.
- **Replacement of a Pre-flight Cage at Mercer County Wildlife Center** – Specifications are currently being developed by contracted consulting firm, Saphire & Albaran. Our office is additionally awaiting confirmations from the D&R Canal Commission for finalization of the project site.
- **On-Going In-House Maintenance Projects:**
 - Electricians are working at Arm & Hammer Stadium for LED light upgrades: concourse, locker rooms, Yankee club, trainer's room.
 - Over ninety (90) ash trees have been removed at the Princeton Country Club and Mt. View Golf Course.
 - The driving range and ball wash area at Mercer Oaks are currently being renovated.

NEW BUSINESS:
RESOLUTIONS:

- R-1. AWARD OF BID RECEIVED DECEMBER 3, 2020, TO MARINE MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL OF DOCKS AT THE MERCER COUNTY ARM & HAMMER PARK AT WATERFRONT PARK FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) YEAR BASED ON THE INDEX RATE (AB2019-42B). TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$339,351.88.
 YEAR ONE (1)-\$169,675.94
 YEAR TWO (2)-\$169,675.94
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Forrester.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.
- R-2. AWARD OF BID RECEIVED JANUARY 23, 2020, TO SOLARES LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-01). PERIOD: TWO (2) YEARS. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$69,236.00.
 YEAR ONE (1) APRIL 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021-\$33,765.00
 YEAR TWO (2) APRIL 1, 2021THROUGH MARCH 31, 2022-\$35,471.00
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Forrester.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.
- R-3. AWARD OF BID RECEIVED JANUARY 30, 2020, TO C. STEVENSON & SON, INC. FOR MERCER COUNTY PARK WEST END PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-05). TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$437,775.00. PERIOD: 250 CALENDAR DAYS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

- R-4. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$163,278.63
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.
- R-5. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MULTIPLE VENDORS FOR THE ON-CALL PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS; BASED ON MARKET PRICING AT THE TIME OF REQUEST FOR THE HOWELL LIVING HISTORY FARM, MERCER COUNTY STABLES AND THE MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER FACILITIES. PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$42,500.00
ROSEDALE MILLS AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$20,000.00
SERGEANTSVILLE COUNTRY STORE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$22,500.00
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Forrester.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.
- R-6 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH ZAGSTER, INC. FOR A BIKE SHARE PROGRAM FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION FACILITIES (CC-2019-02). EXTEND THE INITIAL ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD OF THE CONTRACT FOR A ONE (1) YEAR OPTION PERIOD OF: MAY 1, 2020 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021; IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$48,000.00. ALL OTHER TERMS OF CONTRACT REMAIN THE SAME. (CC-2019-02)
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

R-7. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LOOMACRES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR CANADA GOOSE MITIGATION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,846.25. PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2021

– On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Forrester.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

R-8. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SPIEZLE ARCHITECTURAL GROUP (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR ROOFING REPLACEMENT AT THE MERCER COUNTY PARK SKATING CENTER, TOWNSHIP OF WEST WINDSOR. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$23,500.00. PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2021

– On Motion by Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

R-9. AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2019-83, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 AND THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO. 1) TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ENGINEERING AND LAND PLANNING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A ROPES COURSE IN THE MERCER COUNTY PARK, TOWNSHIP OF WEST WINDSOR. INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$10,100.00 (+16.23%); RESULTING IN A REVISED TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$72,325.00. CONTRACT PERIOD REMAINS THE SAME

– On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Schulz.

- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.
- R-10. MERCER COUNTY PARK AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF FINANCE FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER; TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEPOSITING AND EXPENDING SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS FOR PARK COMMISSION EVENTS
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Davis.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.
- R-11. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MONETARY CONTRIBUTION FROM THE WILDLIFE CENTER FRIENDS ORGANIZATION FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO THE WILDLIFE CENTER OPERATING ACCOUNT TO SUPPORT A SEASONAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING COORDINATOR POSITION AT THE MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER FACILITY. PERIOD: THREE (3) YEARS, COMMENCING MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023. YEAR ONE (1) AMOUNT: \$18,000.00/\$12.00 PER HOUR. SUBSEQUENT YEAR AMOUNTS TO BE DETERMINED
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.
- R-12. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE RENAMING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN ROADWAY NAMES IN THE MERCER COUNTY PARK, TOWNSHIPS OF HAMILTON AND WEST WINDSOR, COUNTY OF MERCER
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Mooij.

R-13. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH LMH HOLDINGS, LLC (LANDMARK HOSPITALITY) TO ESTABLISH THE ROLES OF EACH PARTY TO OFFER WEEKLY SEASONAL HAPPY HOUR EVENTS AT THE BOATHOUSE AND MARINA FACILITY IN THE MERCER COUNTY PARK; FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 1, 2020, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

– On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Davis.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

R-14. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF TRENTON, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CULTURE; TO ESTABLISH THE ROLES OF EACH PARTY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE MEADOW AT CADWALADER PARK IN THE CITY OF TRENTON; FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 26, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021

– On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Forrester.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

R-15. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT WITH RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO ESTABLISH THE ROLES OF EACH PARTY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF DEER DENSITY MONITORING AT BALDPATE MOUNTAIN, AND MERCER MEADOWS; TO INCLUDE MERCER COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROPERTY. PARK COMMISSION TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$3,465.00. RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AMOUNT: FIFTY PERCENT (50%) MATCHING FUNDS- \$3,465.00. PERIOD: MARCH 2, 2020 THROUGH COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICES RENDERED.

– On Motion by Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Schulz.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

R-16. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE TO DEFINE THE ROLES OF A PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE ON MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION OPERATED AND MAINTAINED PROPERTIES

– On Motion by Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

R-17. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A STEWARDSHIP WORK PLAN AGREEMENT WITH THE FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL LIST OF STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS TO BE PERFORMED ON MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION OPERATED AND MAINTAINED PROPERTIES

– On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Forrester.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

R-18. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A TRAIL PATHWAY EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE FOR: BLOCK 6101, LOTS 7 AND 8; IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION COST: \$0.00, COUNTY OF MERCER COST: \$1.00

– On Motion by Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

– **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

LATE STARTERS:

– On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz, new business Late Starters were approved to be added to the Mercer County Park Commission March 25, 2020 Public Meeting Agenda.

- In voice vote: **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

LS-1. AWARD OF BID RECEIVED FEBRUARY 21, 2020 TO J.H. WILLIAMS ENTERPRISES FOR MERCER STABLES PHASE 2 ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-02).PERIOD: 180 CALENDAR DAYS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED.

TOTAL BASE BID AMOUNT: \$687,000.00

ADDITIONAL ALTERNATE ONE (1): \$140,000.00

ADDITIONAL ALTERNATE TWO (2): \$29,000.00

TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$856,000.00

- On Motion by Commissioner Forrester seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Schulz and Smith. **Nays**- None. **Abstain**-None. **Absent**: Longo and Mooij.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

NEW INITIATIVES:

- **Dam Site 21-** Contracted consulting firm, Simone Collins is currently finalizing a narrative report and print final copies of the Master Plan for distribution. Next Steps will include working with Simone Collins to identify the components for each phase of the proposed improvements to the Dam Site.

2020 NJRPA AWARDS

- Three (3) Mercer County Park Commission facilities have received distinguished awards at the 2020 NJRPA Annual Conference in Atlantic City:
 - The Mercer County Wildlife Center is the recipient of the Greg P. Marshal Award for Excellence in Stewardship.
 - The Environmental Education Department at the Tulpehaking Nature Center is the recipient of the NJRPA Education Award for the Nature Center’s *Watershed Moments* program.
 - The Howell Living History Farm is the recipient of the 2020 Daniel M. Gasalberti Award for excellence in recreational programing for the 2019 *Corn Maze* program.

GOLF OPERATIONS:

- **Golf Rounds**–The golf courses saw 308 rounds of golf played last week between Mercer Oaks West and Princeton Country Club.
- **Golf Facility Winter Schedule Adjustment** – Due to the unseasonably warm weather we have experienced, golf staff have seen an increased demand for tee times. To accommodate requests, the East course at Mercer Oaks was open for play on February 22 and 23. Mercer Oaks West and Princeton Country Club were also open during these dates. All four (4) courses will be open for the season on March 1.

TENNIS OPERATIONS:

- **The following awards will be presented at the 2020 USTA Awards Banquet; to be held at the Mercer County Tennis Center:**
 - **USTA Middle States Section Teaching Professional of the Year**–Tennis Center instructor, Ms. Devin Rubino will be named the USTA Middle States Section Teaching Professional of the Year. This Award is presented to one (1) teaching professional in Middle States, encompassing the area of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and a small section of West Virginia.
 - **USTA Premier Provider**–For the seventh straight year, The Mercer County Tennis Center has been named a USTA Premier Provider. This award goes to facilities in the Middle States section that provide well-rounded tennis programming for all ages; as well as contribute to tennis education and multiple community outreach efforts.

RECREATION AND EVENTS:

- **2020 Picnic Reservations**–On Tuesday, February 18 the Park Commission opened picnic reservations for the 2020 season. To date, 206 picnics have been scheduled.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- **African American Presence in Pleasant Valley Programming Discussion**–The Mercer County Park Commission Administration, along with members of management staff held an initial discussion with the Trustees of the Pennington African Cemetery, Administrative Officials from the Hopewell Township School District and the author of the novel *If These Stones Could Talk*, to discuss forming an initiative to provide programming that will attract people in urban communities to the Howell Farm by incorporating the diverse history of farming in positive ways.

- **Isles Career Panels** – The Park Commission has coordinated three (3) career panel events with students from the Isles Organization. The first Career Panel took place on February 6 with Superintendent of Operations, Rob Doherty and his staff. The second Panel took place on February 20 with General Supervisor, Mike Melker and his staff. The third panel will take place in March with Director of Stewardship, Jenn Rogers and her staff.

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

- **Harmful Algal Bloom Grant** – The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will be notifying applicants of award status by the end of the month. Once Award notification has been given, it will be presented to the Commission for their consideration at the March meeting.
- **Prescribed Burn at Mercer Meadows** – The Park Commission in partnership with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service conducted a prescribed burn at the Pole Farm and Reed Bryan section of Mercer Meadows on Monday, February 24, 2020.

MERCER STABLES

- **New Format for Summer Schedule** – New for 2020, the Mercer Stables will run numerous individual public programs instead of summer camps. This format will allow for a substantial increase in program usership and a possible increase in revenue. Programs will vary for all ages, equine experience levels, interests, and in length.

PUBLIC SESSION:

- There were no members of the public who requested to speak during the Public Session for the February 26, 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETING:

- The March 26, 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting is scheduled to take place on March 26, 2020 at 5:30 pm, at the Hunt Barn, 197 Blackwell Road, Pennington, NJ 08534

ADJOURNMENT:

- On motion by Commissioner Schulz, Adjournment took place at 6:20 pm

Heather Mauro

Heather Mauro

Executive Secretary
Secretary to the Commission