

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

Local Operational Guidance - COVID 19

N.J.S.A 10:4-8(b) authorizes local units to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Mercer County Park Commission will hold their **SEPTEMBER MEETING** on **Wednesday, September 30, 2020; to begin at 5:30 pm via Zoom Webinar**. To encourage full public participation of the public meeting, please use the meeting access information below:

Please use the information provided below join the webinar:

- **Webinar ID: 861 3170 2305**
- **Passcode: 773039**

- **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86131702305?pwd=VWxEOUwvS3J3QnVacnhaall6YncxQT09>**

- Telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
 - o US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 436 2866 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833

- Public Comment shall take place as indicated on the September 30, 2020 Agenda. Kindly provide public comment when prompted during the meeting via the messaging/chat feature or by the, ‘hand-raising’ feature, where you will be prompted to speak to provide public comment.

CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Davis called the September 30, 2020 meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to order at 5:10 pm, via Zoom Webinar platform.

ROLL CALL:

- **The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:**
 - o Commissioners: Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Smith

- **The following Commissioners were absent:**
 - o Commissioner Longo
 - o Commissioner Schulz

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

NOTICE OF MEETING:

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: EMAILED TO THE TIMES, AND THE TRENTONIAN AND POSTED ON THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION WEBSITE

LOCAL OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE - COVID 19
N.J.S.A 10:4-8(B) AUTHORIZES LOCAL UNITS TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS THROUGH USE OF STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 19, 2020 PARK COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING:

- In voice vote, the August 19, 2020 the Park Commission Public Meeting minutes were approved a presented.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Smith. **Nays-** None.
Abstain-None. **Absent:** Longo and Schulz

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2020 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION BILLS:

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

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2020 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION REVENUE REPORTS:

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

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

(Presented by: Executive Director Aaron T. Watson; Deputy Director, Joe Pizza, Superintendent of Operations, Rob Doherty and General Supervisor of Trades, Mike Melker)

- This month's Employee of the Month is Mike Rossi. Mr. Rossi began his employment with the Park Commission in 1987 as a Senior Park Maintenance employee. Mr. Rossi became a foreman in 2007. He currently works in the Mercer County Park, and also assists at the golf courses.

COMMUNICATIONS*(Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson)*

- **C-1: HOWELL FARM'S 'BRIDGES OF MERCER COUNTY' CORN MAZE OPEN WEEKENDS THROUGH NOV. 1**
 - *Howell Farm's 24th annual corn maze opened Saturday, Sept. 19. Visitors will search for map pieces and clues to complete a number of challenges throughout the three (3) acre maze.*
 - *Those who solve the map and game board featuring ten (10) of Mercer County's historic bridges are eligible for bragging rights and a place on the maze's big scoreboard. Other activities include a courtyard with food and games, a farm stand with pumpkins and fall decorations, and hayrides to the top of nearby Belle Mountain.*
 - *Masks will be required in the courtyard and inside the maze when social distancing isn't possible. All Mercer County Park Commission rules and regulations apply, as well as state requirements regarding COVID-19.*

- **C-2: EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE: PARK MAINTENANCE (Rec'd 9/17/2020)**

"I want to get word to the manager of the Parks and the employees who work on the grounds how much I appreciate their labors. Our County parks are simply wonderful, and they are so very well maintained that it is pure joy to walk in them. I think being in the Parks kept many people sane when we have been so confined these past few months. Kudos especially for Mercer Meadows! It is the Park nearest to me and I have enjoyed hours and hours along the varied and beautiful trails there.....usually early in the morning. I appreciate the width of the main trails and the carefully tended edges. The bridges are another feature to love, especially the newest ones! The signage is helpful without being obtrusive, and the variety of trails keeps it interesting. I have loved learning more about the Pole Farm which my children passed every day on the school bus in the 60s and 70s."

*Sally Maruca
Lawrenceville, NJ 08548*

- **C-3 EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE: CAMPING EXPERIENCE (Rec'd 9/13/2020)**

"I am writing today, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, , because I had the opportunity to visit my daughter and her family at the Mercer County Campgrounds today. They took their two boys camping overnight in your park last night. I was truly amazed this morning when I walked to this site. I only live 5 minutes from the park and could not believe how beautiful this was. It was truly amazing what we have available to us! The wooden Adirondack chairs, grills, fire pits, along with fire extinguishers and wooden sheds were outstanding. I could not believe how well maintained and organized everything was. I drive past the entrance to the park every day but have not visited in the last several years.

I live on Flock Rd. off of Hughes Drive and I know the County is planning on putting a park behind our house. I was upset over this at first, but after visiting today and seeing how they developed this site, I am excited to have this new park in my backyard. Hopefully it will be similar.

Please pass this on to whomever is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of this beautiful park! You are doing an outstanding job! Proud to say I am a Mercer County resident!"

*Carolyn Pontani
Hamilton Square, NJ. 08690*

Commissioner Smith asks: "Have we looked into capturing live testimonies? I think that a visual piece is important for Constituents."

Executive Director Watson replies: "We will certainly consider looking into capturing live testimonies."

OLD BUSINESS:

- **In House Staff Operations:**
 - **Masons**-Repair of sidewalk at the Skating Rink and Marina facilities; Arm and Hammer Park; Soccer Fields and Tennis Courts.
 - **Painters**-Painting Main Ballroom at the Boathouse Marina Facility and the East Picnic Area Pavilion.
 - **Electricians and Plumbers**-Answering daily maintenance calls for all facilities. Winterizing various facilities.
- **Golf** -Preliminary Hopewell Valley Golf Course Maintenance functions; inclusive of irrigation, seeding aeration. Positive feedback from residents has been received. Administration is currently budgeting for future operations.
- **Flooring Replacement at the Mercer Skating Rink**-The Mercer Skating Rink has undergone a flooring replacement and upgrade. This project has been completed.
- **Mercer County Stables Phase II Renovation**-This project is on schedule and is anticipated to be completed in early November of 2020. .
- **Ropes Course Design**-Final design has been completed for review. Once final review has been approved by Park Commission Administration, project specifications shall be sent to the Purchasing Department to advertise for public bidding.
- **Mercer Meadows Upland Trail Paving**-This project; which consists of upgrades to trails, trail widening and the installation of a pre-fabricated bridge, is anticipated to be completed within three (3) weeks.
- **Outdoor Fitness Course in the Mercer County Park**-The new Fitness Course; a complete circuit course, is anticipated to be completed within approximately three (3) weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:**RESOLUTIONS:**

R-1. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT; AND ACCOMPANYING MEMBER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS; TO PERFORM THE ROLE OF HOST AGENCY FOR THE AMERICORPS NEW JERSEY WATERSHED AMBASSADORS PROGRAM AT THE TULPEHAKING NATURE CENTER FACILITY. PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021. NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING AND STANDARDS AMOUNT: \$1,000.00

– On Motion by Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Mooij

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

R-2. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AID/SHELTER AGREEMENT WITH EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO UTILIZE FACILITIES OF THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AS AID/SHELTER IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY; RESULTING IN A MANDATORY SCHOOL EVACUATION DURING THE 2020/2021 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR. PARK COMMISSION COST: \$0.00

– On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Smith.

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

R-3. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION [501(C)3] FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR EVALUATION WORK GROUP SERVICES PERFORMED BY TULPEHAKING NATURE CENTER STAFF; IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALLIANCE FOR WATERSHED EDUCATION. NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION AMOUNT: \$4,083.33 (NWF ID NO. 2027-022)

– On Motion by Commissioner Mooij seconded by Commissioner Smith.

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

R-4. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES NEGOTIATIONS FOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FOR IRRIGATION AND PUMP SYSTEMS FOR TWO (2) YEARS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-26C)

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

R-5 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES NEGOTIATIONS FOR ONE (1) 2020 PREMIER BOUNDARY WATERS PONTOON BOAT OR EQUIVALENT FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION(AB2020-25B)

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

R-6 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES A NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE FROM SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT (T2931/A86561) FOR ON-CALL INVASIVE PLANT HERBICIDAL TREATMENT SERVICES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT MERCER COUNTY-OWNED AND MAINTAINED PARK PROPERTIES. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000.00. PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 13, 2020

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

R-7 REJECTION OF BIDS RECEIVED AUGUST 13, 2020 FOR THE HENRY PHILLIPS BARN RESTORATION-WEST EXTENSION FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-11)

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

R-8 REJECTION OF BIDS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 FOR DEER FENCING FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-37)

- On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Smith.

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

R-9 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CHANGE ORDER (CHANGE ORDER NO.1) WITH MOUNT CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. FOR MERCER MEADOWS UPLAND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2019-43B); EXTEND CONTRACT PERIOD SIXTY (60) CALENDAR DAYS; THROUGH NOVEMBER 4, 2020. CONTRACT AMOUNT REMAINS THE SAME

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

R-10 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BANC3 ENGINEERING (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING SERVICES FOR THE DAM SITE 21 PROPERTY, TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,470.00. PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

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

R-11 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 PATIENTS AT THE MERCER COUNTY WILDLIFE CENTER. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$30,000.00
RODENT PRO-\$15,000.00
INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE-\$7,000.00
CHRIS'S SQUIRRELS AND MORE-\$8,000.00

- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Mooij.

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

R-12 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED AUGUST 13, 2020, TO HALECON INC., FOR VARIOUS PATH IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION (AB2020-24B). TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$212,578.00. PERIOD: NINETY (90) CALENDAR DAYS FROM NOTICE TO PROCEED

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

R-13 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH MERCER SKATING SCHOOL, LLC. FOR CONCESSIONAIRE SKATING DIRECTOR SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK SKATING CENTER. PERIOD: NOVEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2023 WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR A TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD OR TWO (2) ONE (1) YEAR PERIODS (CC-2020-03)

- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Smith.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Smith. **Nays-** None.
Abstain-
None. **Absent:** Longo and Schulz.
- On Motion to add a LATER STARTER to the Agenda by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Smith.
- In voice vote, LATE STARTER was approved to be added to the Agenda.
- **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Smith. **Nays-** None.
Abstain-
None. **Absent:** Longo and Schulz.

LS-1 AWARD OF BID RECEIVED JULY 30, 2020, TO ARIES BUILDING SYSTEMS, LLC. FOR THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) MOBILE RESTROOM TRAILER FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION TOTAL AMOUNT

NOT TO EXCEED: \$53,768.00 (AB2020-32)

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Presented by Executive Director Aaron T. Watson

GOLF

- August Rounds of play as well as Memberships are up over 2019 figures. In August we recorded 20,265 rounds / 17,423 in 2019. And membership increased from 450 (2019) to 691 (2020). Golf outings have resumed at Mercer Oaks East, West and Mt. View. Outings will continue through mid-October.
- Overall 2020 revenue still trails 2019 figures by 11%, due to course closures in the Spring. This despite the fact we have been experiencing peak attendance at all our courses throughout the summer.

TENNIS

- 1,010 Tennis/Pickleball ID membership continues to grow. 1,010 ID cards have been sold to date.
- The Mercer County Fall Tennis League regular season concludes on September 27th, 343 players participated. Playoffs will begin October 3 – 31.
- Our Indoor tennis center is scheduled to re-open on October 1st. To date, 101 indoor courts dates have been sold.

RECREATION AND EVENTS

- **Spray Park**
On September 25, the Park Commission held a ribbon-cutting for the new Spray Park, located adjacent to Lakeside Village Park and the Boathouse Marina. The spray park will be open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., weather permitting:
 - Project Manager – Robert Doherty, Superintendent of Operations
 - Funding – PC capital \$330k / Planning – Open Space Fund \$300k
 - Awarded to V&K Construction
 - Consultant – CME Associates, Stephan LaMoine
 - Park admission – Free
 - 25-person / 45- minute intervals – Due to COVID restrictions spray park is

cleaned / sanitized after each 45 min usage.

- **Drive in Movie and Concert Events**

The Recreation & Events Department, in partnership with our Park Maintenance & Rangers, are in the final stretch of a wildly successful five (5) week drive-in events series.

o **Drive-In Movie Nights:**

Since the first Friday of September, we have hosted weekly drive-in movie nights featuring “Harry Potter & the Sorcerer’s Stone”, “Moana”, “The Addams Family” & “Sonic the Hedgehog”, which was our first movie viewing ever held at the Rosedale Park. Moviegoers are directed to parking spaces with a designated tailgate space to allow for socially distance outdoor enjoyment. The movies continue to boast full and diverse crowds.

o **Drive-In Concert Nights**

Every Saturday evening, we have hosted the drive-in concerts in the cricket field across from the festival grounds at the Mercer County Park. There has been an overwhelming show of support for these events in the recorded attendance. Each week, the shows have focused on various genres and have highlighted local talent such as *Kindred Spirit*, *The Sounds of Sandstorm* and *Instant Funk*. We’ve utilized the same parking/tailgating layout as the movie nights to ensure the health & safety of all concert attendees, bands, vendors and staff.

- **2021 Concert Series**

We are currently planning for the 2021 season. While we hope conditions improve so that we can enjoy a more normal season, we will be prepared to move forward with the new format.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- **Swimming to Rowing Program**

In partnership with the PNRA, the Park Commission hosted a drive-in movie event at the Cure Insurance Arena parking lot on September 27. The movie, *A Most Beautiful Thing*; about the first all-black high school rowing team; is intended to generate an audience to get more public-school students interested in swimming and rowing programs.

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

- **Deer Management**

Deer management has begun at Baldpate Mountain and Mercer Meadows. With deer population densities still Eight (8) to ten (10) times their healthy size; reducing the region’s deer population is one of the most important stewardship activities. Funds have been allocated to participate in the Hunters Helping the Hungry program again this season.

- **Roots 4 Rivers**

The Roots 4 Rivers restoration planting was completed at Rosedale Park. Over 1400 native trees and shrubs were planted in the meadow at the park entrance by our Stewardship staff and local volunteers.

- **National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) Grant Award**
 - o The Stewardship Department has received notification of award for a 2020 Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund matching grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; in the amount of \$150,000.00.
 - o Grant funds will be dedicated to furthering the restoration efforts at Roebing Park. Additionally, the grant will fund installation of an ecologically friendly boat ramp.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:

- **River Days Event at South Riverwalk Park**-Our River Days event in South Riverwalk Park attracted over 400 people. Due to COVID, the annual event shifted to a safe and socially distant walk-through format where visitors received masks, hand sanitizer, fresh produce and a bagged lunch. The event served an ethnically diverse population from local communities.

MERCER STABLES:

- Due to ongoing construction and renovation work program availability has been limited since July. Beginning in October, we will welcome the restart of the following programs:
 - o **Group Lessons (10/1)**
We have been running private lessons since May for advanced riders so as to limit contact with inexperienced riders.
 - o **Trail riding (10/3)**-The first weekend is already booked.
 - o **New and Beginner Level Riders (10/5)**-Students with no or limited experience lessons. We have received a lot of calls with interest in this level of riders.

HOWELL FARM:

- **Foodbank Support and Outreach**
As of September 25, 11,340 Mercer County residents have received distributions of the farm's grain products, vegetables, and eggs through the *Share the Harvest Program*. Over 22,000lbs of products have been donated thus far, and farmers are currently planting extra crops of winter wheat, rye, spelts, and barley to assist with anticipated needs.
- **Educational Programs**
The farm has partnered with the Environmental Education Department, Stewardship Department and Wildlife Center to provide new on-line educational programs for schools; as well as virtual versions of the popular "*Naturally Friends*" program series.
- **Public Programs**
The farm's 37th Annual Plowing Match had the best public turnout in many years and saw Howell Farm's own Ian Ferry win the match for the second year in a row.
- **Friends of Howell Farm Ad Grant Award**
The Friends of Howell Farm qualified for a Google Ad grant that promotes non-profit initiatives such as the Corn Maze, Friends' website, and fundraising efforts linked to programs such as, "*Share the Harvest*." The award provides Ad credits of up to \$10,000 per month for a period of one (1) year.

WILDLIFE CENTER :

- This year to date, the Wildlife Center has successfully treated and cared for 2,434 different species of wildlife.

- Over the past month, Wildlife Center staff has returned over 120 turtles, raccoons, squirrels, and birds back to their natural habitat.

PUBLIC SESSION:

- The Following Members of the Public addressed the Commission during the Public Comment Period of the Meeting:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Dino Spadaccini, Esq.
Hamilton, New Jersey
Via Zoom Audio | 3. Kristine
Hamilton, New Jersey
Via Zoom Comments |
| 2. Michelle
Hamilton, New Jersey
Via Zoom Audio | |

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETING:

- The October 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting is scheduled to take place on October 28, 2020; at a location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT:

- On motion by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Smith, Adjournment took place at 6:40 pm

Heather Mauro

Heather Mauro

Executive Secretary

Secretary to the Commission