

**MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
MAY MEETING
MAY 27, 2020**

The May Meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission has been scheduled for:

Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. to be held via Public Access Zoom Webinar Link and Phone Number:

When: May 27, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Mercer County Park Commission Zoom Webinar-May 27 Public Meeting

***Public Comment shall take place as indicated on the May 27, 2020 Meeting 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.**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

When: May 27, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: May 27, 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting Webinar

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87032380362?pwd=aVRKcS9WVmJlYUvUDhhaXFZRVdvQT09>

Password: 773039

CALL TO ORDER

- Commissioner Schulz called the May 27, 2020 meeting of the Mercer County Park Commission to order at 5:30 pm, via Zoom Webinar platform.

ROLL CALL

- **The following Commissioners answered the Roll Call of the Secretary:**
 - o Commissioners: Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij and Schulz.
- **The following Commissioners were absent:**
 - o Commissioner Longo, Commissioner Smith

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: emailed to the Times, Trentonian, the Mercer County Clerk and the Joyce McDade Administration Building.

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

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

Approval of May 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Bills:

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

Approval of April 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Revenue Reports:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Executive Director provided the Commission a copy of the 2019 Publication of the of the Wildlife Journal, the Annual Publication of the Mercer County Wildlife Center.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

- The Executive Director recognized the entire Park Commission staff for their efforts during the closure under the Executive Order.

OLD BUSINESS:

Executive Director Award Recognition-Deputy Director, Joe Pizza reported to the Board that Executive Director, Aaron T. Watson received an award from the National Recreation and Parks Association Organization; nominated by Ms. Elenore Horne, Executive Director of the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail, for his contributions to the Mercer County Park Commission during his current tenure. Executive Director, Aaron T. Watson thanked the Park Commission staff, management, his administrative team, the Board and the County Executive for the support.

Current Operations During Covid Closure under the Governor's current Executive Order

- Golf Staff has been working five (5) days per week, under social distancing guidelines to continue to provide golf services to patrons.
- Maintenance staff has been working five (5) days per week, under social distancing guidelines, to maintain grounds; including mowing, seeding and tree work.
- Wildlife Center, Stables and Howell Farm Staff have been working five (5) days per week, under social distancing guidelines, to continue to provide animal care and facility maintenance.
- Administrative staff have been staggered in the office to maintain payroll, invoice reconciliation and contractual payments; as well as correspondence and Executive staff support.
- Trade Staff has been working five (5) days per week for any facility repairs and /or upgrades needed; as well as create PPE Plexi-glass shields for facilities and offices under the current guidelines.

Mercer Meadows Paving and Drainage Project-This project is currently eighty-percent (80%) complete and anticipated to be completed in the coming month.

Stony Brook Pedestrian Bridge and Trail Project-This project is nearing substantial completion. There will be a ribbon-cutting scheduled within the coming month.

Re-Paving of Walking Trails and Paths in the Mercer County Park and Tennis Center Complex-This project has been completed.

NEW BUSINESS:
RESOLUTIONS:

- R-1. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON TO UTILIZE CERTAIN SERVICES OF THE HAMILTON TOWNSHIP ECOLOGICAL FACILITY FOR ONE (1) YEAR AS PER N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021; WITH ALL TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT REMAINING SAME
- On Motion by Commissioner Gardner seconded by Commissioner Schulz.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith.
- R-2. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR SYSTEM FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION MAINTENANCE SHOP FACILITY; FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,885.00
- On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None. **Abstain-**None. **Absent:** Longo and Smith.
- R-3. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ENGINEERING & LAND PLANNING (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, MITIGATION AND CONTROL FEATURE SERVICES FOR THE PREVENTION OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AT ROSEDALE LAKE, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$129,600.00. PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2020 THROUGH PROJECT COMPLETION. NJDEP GRANT AGREEMENT NO. WM20-035
- On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Gardner.
 - **Ayes** – Davis, Forrester, Gardner, Mooij, and Schulz. **Nays-** None.

Abstain-None. **Absent**: Longo and Smith.

R-4. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PRINCETON HYDRO (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL HYDROLOGICAL MONITORING AND INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION IN THE FRESHWATER TIDAL WETLANDS AT JOHN A. ROEBLING MEMORIAL PARK, TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$98,850.00. PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2020 THROUGH MAY 31, 2021

– On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Gardner.

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

R-5 MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH SIMONE COLLINS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ANALYSIS AND MASTER PLAN DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE MOORES STATION QUARRY RESTORATION AND PARK DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$300,704.00 PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2020 THROUGH MAY 31, 2021 (RFQ 2019-01)

– On Motion by Commissioner Schulz seconded by Commissioner Davis.

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

R-6. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES A 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: THROUGH SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

– On Motion by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Schulz.

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

R-7. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION ACCEPTS THE EARLY TERMINATION OF A PUBLICLY BID AND FORMALLY AWARDED CONTRACT WITH MARINE MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION FOR INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL OF DOCKS AT THE MERCER COUNTY ARM & HAMMER PARK (AB2019-42B). PERIOD: TWO YEARS (2) WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) YEAR BASED ON THE INDEX RATE. [YEAR ONE (1): \$169,675.94; YEAR TWO (2): \$169,675.94]. “TERMINATE CONTRACT DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE DOCKS AT THE MERCER COUNTY ARM & HAMMER PARK WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR PUBLIC USE UNDER THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 118, DATED APRIL 7, 2020; AND THEREFORE, CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR DOCK INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL ARE NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME” TERMINATION EFFECTIVE JUNE 29, 2020

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

R-8. MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT OF ASSISTANCE WITH HEADS UP FRIENDS OF MERCER COUNTY STABLES, A NON-PROFIT 501 (C) 3 ORGANIZATION; FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE IN THE MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MERCER STABLES FACILITY FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Aaron T. Watson provided the Commission with an update on operations through the first phases of re-opening under the Governor's Executive Order:

- **Golf**-Some restrictions on golf play have been lifted. Foursomes are now permitted, as well as the utilization of driving ranges, putting greens and golf cart rentals.
- **Tennis**- Tennis play has resumed, with restrictions.
- **Dog Parks**-All Dog Parks have re-opened, under the posted guidelines.
- **Mercer Stables**-Riding lessons have resumed, with restrictions.
- **Marina**-Boat rentals have resumed at the Marina, with restrictions.
- **Camping in the East Picnic Area**-Reservations for campsite use in the East Picnic Area will open on May 29, under the posted guidelines.
- **Virtual Programming**-The Environmental Education Department and the Howell Farm will be moving forward with offering a series of virtual summer camp programs to replace traditional camp offerings, still under restriction.
- **Bike Share**-The Executive Director reported that unfortunately, due to the COVID Crisis, Zagster, Inc. has informed the Park Commission that they are no longer viable as a company and cannot complete their contract effective immediately. The Park Commission Administration will work in the coming months to move forward with a similar program that will be the most advantageous option for the public.

PUBLIC SESSION:

There were no members of the public that wished to speak during the public session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETING:

- The July 29, 2020 Mercer County Park Commission Public Meeting is scheduled to take place at a location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT:

- On motion by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, Adjournment took place at 6:19 pm

Heather Mauro

Heather Mauro

Executive Secretary
Secretary to the Commission