

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****

December 6, 2022

PRESENT:

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

REPRESENTATION:

County Executive
Assunpink Rep.
Piedmont Rep.
Planning Board Rep.
Ag. Board Rep.
Park Commission Rep.
Millstone Rep.

ABSENT:

Trish Fagan

NON-VOTING:

Lisa Fritzing

Assistant Planning Director

PUBLIC:

Alan Hershey called the December 6, 2022 meeting of the Mercer County Open Space Preservation Board to order at 5:00 PM.

I. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Ms. Fritzing 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. Shine made a motion to approve the November 1, 2022 minutes. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Hopewell Quarry Swim Club Grant Application

Ms. Fritzing explained that there is an application from the Friends of Hopewell Quarry (FOHQ) requesting a 40% grant of the certified fair market value (\$593,750.00) of the property. They purchased the property and are now a non-profit conservation land organization. They are also receiving funding from Green Acres. Mr. Hershey mentioned that there would be a potential to make a connection from the property to the trail that goes over the Mount Rose Ridge to County owned land managed by the Watershed. Ms. Jeanne Waldmen of the FOHQ presented information confirming public use and public access to the property, and information regarding septic field operation information, operating costs, and

possible future trail connections. She stated the property is in need of repairs to buildings, septic system, etc. Mr. Cucchi discussed success of the operation of the quarry. If the business failed or changed ownership, the Green Acres restrictions would stay in place.

Mr. Hershey made a motion to approve the grant application, Ms. Fagan seconded. The motion for a \$237,500 grant was unanimously approved.

VI. DISCUSSION:

A. Project Updates

1. **Open Space Farmland Acquisitions:** Ms. Fritzinger reported the following:
 - a) County Open Space
 1. Appraisals ongoing on Penn East land near Curlis Lake
 2. Kerr Farm is close to closing.
2. **Park Development project updates:** Mr. Cucchi reported the following projects are still in the design and permitting phase:
 - a) Moores Station quarry – Trap Rock is in the process of decommissioning quarry operations. Hopewell Planning Board has given approval for final reclamation plan.
 - b) Dam Site 21 – Awaiting DEP permit to move forward with lake dredging.
 - c) Trenton Wharf property – NJDOT implementing project – County will be designing park improvements and oversee permitting. Funding to implement park plans will be transferred to NJDOT.
3. **Stewardship -** Mr. Cucchi reported the following:
 - a. Continuing with normal stewardship practices for deer management. Planning to implement community-based deer management in Hopewell.
 - b. Prescribed burns at Mercer Meadows and Baldpate mountain.
 - c. Invasive species management.
 - d. Roebling Park Living Shoreline project to preserve archeologically significant portions of property.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE: None

VIII. CLOSED SESSION (if necessary): None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie R. Floyd, Acting Secretary