

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****

June 6, 2023

PRESENT:

Leslie R. Floyd
Haig Kasabach, Chair
Alan Hershey, Vice Chair
Anthony Cucchi
Wendy Mager

REPRESENTATION:

County Executive
Assunpink Rep.
Piedmont Rep.
Park Commission Rep.
Millstone Rep.

ABSENT:

Michael Shine

Planning Board Rep.

NON-VOTING:

None

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Kasabach called the June 6, 2023 meeting of the Mercer County Open Space Preservation Board to order at 5:03 p.m.

I. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Ms. Floyd 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 April 4, 2023 minutes. Mr. Cucchi seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. OLD BUSINESS: PennEast property agreement of sale went in front of the County Commissioners.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Hamilton Township grant for Willard Family Partnership Property, Basin Road, Hamilton Township (Block 1504, Lots 35 and 37) 32.5 acres. Acquisition cost \$188,000.00. Request \$75,200.00 from the County. Hamilton will manage property. There are limited trails on property. Mr. Hershey moves for approval, seconded by Ms. Mager. Motion to pass approved unanimously.

VI. DISCUSSION:

Project Updates

1. Park Development Project Updates: Mr. Cucchi reported the following projects are still in the design and permitting phase:

- a. Moores Station quarry –Working on final steps with Trap Rock – removal of slightly contaminated soil near above ground tanks. May need a few more months to finish. Park Rangers beginning to patrol

- property. Working with DEP to handle permitting for water management on property. Working with Stantec Consulting for this process. There are also a pair of nesting Peregrine Falcons of the property. Working with the state's Natural Heritage program to have observers go onto property to track fledglings.
- b. Dam Site 21 – DEP permit issued to move forward with lake dredging. Now finalizing bid specification and will be going out to bid in the months ahead to hire a dredging contractor, and gain final permitting approval. Also in the process of finalizing trail design on the property. Dredging should be done this fall. Process requires Lake Lowering Permit. Dredging will be done mechanically with a bulldozer. Need to relocate fish to another area. This must happen during a specific time of year.
 - c. Trenton Wharf Property – In process of receiving final executed HUD grant agreement. Once that is complete, can move forward with project. Working with NJDOT on permitting process, waiting for final review and submission.

2. Stewardship - Mr. Cucchi reported the following:

- a. Invasive species management. RES Environmental Services working in several areas to address problems. Currently working at Quarry.
- b. Roebbling Park - Working on last phase of the phragmites, freshwater restoration project. Permit expires at the end of this year, last chance to treat the area under that permit. Question regarding success in control methods to have a lasting impact. Phragmites have been treated successfully in much of the area. Wild rice has replaced a large portion of where phragmites were removed. Other invasive species are being treated as well. PSE&G also involved in assisting as much of it is in their areas too.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE: Nonc

VIII. CLOSED SESSION (if necessary): None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie R. Floyd, Acting Secretary