



Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund Program

Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Notes of March 21st, 2016

AGENDA 1. POSAC convened on Monday March 21st, 2016, at the Route 12 Hunterdon County Complex, Flemington, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Steeves.

MEMBERS PRESENT: EARLE STEEVES, Chair, H. JORDAN GUENTHER, CAROL HOFFMANN, GERRY LYNESS, BILL BOWLBY, SUZANNE WILDER BILL HARCLERODE,

Excused: RENEE MCNAMARA, SUZANNE LAGAY, JOHN LANZA

Chair Steeves welcomed newly appointed CADB representative Gerry Lyness to the Committee. Bill Bowlby has stepped down from his role on the CADB and as such a new representative needed to be appointed. Bill has since reapplied and was appointed as a regular member of POSAC.

AGENDA 2. **Approval of the Jan 19th, 2016 Meeting notes:** Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve the minutes. Suzanne Wilder seconded. Motion passed with Carol Hoffmann recusing, Gerry Lyness and Bill Bowlby abstaining.

AGENDA 7. – NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

- **Tobacco Free Parks proposal** – This agenda item was moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate members of the public in attendance. Representatives from Hunterdon Healthcare, the Safe Coalition and the New Jersey Prevention Network presented a proposal to eliminate tobacco use in the Hunterdon County Parks system. Members discussed the pros and cons of the proposal as well as the effects on the County's enforcement and staff. A trial basis was suggested as a possible first step prior to full implementation. Bill Bowlby made a motion to table the discussion until further research was done into the effects of implementation. Gerry Lyness seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA 3. Review/Final Recommendation Municipal Grant Program Applications

- Staff presented the details of all municipal grant applications as a group; Raritan Township – Debt Service: \$400,000.00; Frenchtown Borough – Debt Service: \$12,766.62; High Bridge Borough – Debt Service: \$10,785.97; West Amwell Township – Farmland reimbursement: \$45,619.06; Kingwood Township – Farmland Preservation: \$40,600.00. Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve all applications. Suzanne Wilder seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA 6. –PARKS OPERATIONAL

- **Tree Installations** – Staff presented the proposals received to plant memorial trees in the parks.

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The first request was the Rotary Tree Planting. Bill Bowlby made a motion to approve the planting as long as the tree was in a location deemed suitable by Parks, a native species was used, and it was accompanied by a parks plaque. Suzanne Wilder seconded. Motion passed. The second was a request to plant in Sunnyside Park. Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve the planting with a recommendation by parks staff on type and location of the tree as well as an accompanying plaque. Suzanne Wilder seconded. Motion passed.

- **Various** – Staff reported on the numerous active projects affecting Parks.
 - The Student Conservation Association contract is moving forward and Parks is looking forward to working with the SCA again.
 - Prescott Bridge is waiting on permit approval for the foundation work
 - The septic installation at South County Park is almost completed.
 - Horse manure on the Columbia Trail is again an issue. Member discussed various alternatives to an outright ban on equestrian traffic including increased signage and public outreach to equestrian groups to educate public on cleanup.
 - Staff also gave an update on the plans for the structure at Heron Glen.

AGENDA 7. – **NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS**

- **Open Space Trust Fund Plan** – The Plan has been adopted by the Freeholder Board and staff will now focus on the creation of the Strategic Parks Plan.
- **Strategic Parks Plan** - Staff gave an update to the status of the Strategic Parks & Open Space Plan. Members of the public spoke in regards to county and municipal cooperation regarding the Plan as both face similar challenges.

AGENDA 8. – **POSAC/PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Richard Dodds from Kingwood Township gave an update on the Church property acquisition. The Township is holding a ribbon cutting for the property on May 21st and looks forward to working on the trail network on the property and connecting it to the greater Horseshoe Bend Park.

AGENDA 9. – **FREEHOLDER COMMENTS - NONE**

AGENDA 10. - **ADJOURN** – Having no further business, Bill Bowlby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jordan Guenther seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by: *Bill Millette*, July 18th, 2016