



HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PLANNING SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Hunterdon County Administration Building
314 Route 12, Suite 140
County Complex, Bldg. # 1
PO Box 2900 Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund Program

Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Notes of May 15th, 2017

AGENDA 1. POSAC convened on Monday May 15th, 2017, at the Route 12 Hunterdon County Complex, Flemington, NJ. Chair Steeves welcomed those in attendance and the meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: EARLE STEEVES, H. JORDAN GUENTHER, KENNETH NOVAK, BILL BOWLBY(@7:10), JUERGEN HUELSEBUSCH, SUZANNE WILDER, DONALD BROUGHTON (@7:07)

Excused: GERRY LYNESS,

AGENDA 2. Approval of the March 20th, 2017 Meeting notes: Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve the minutes. Juergen Huelsebusch seconded. Motion passed with Ken Novak abstaining. Bill Bowlby and Don Broughton were not present for the vote.

AGENDA 3. Review/Final Recommendation Municipal Grant Applications

- High Bridge – Debt Service - Lake Solitude: Staff presented the details of the Borough's application and request to fund debt service related to the Lake Solitude acquisition. Jordan Guenther made a motion to approve. Juergen Huelsebusch seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill Bowlby and Don Broughton were not present for the vote.
- Readington Township – Schley Farm Easement: Staff gave an overview of the Township's request to utilize their open space allocation to fund the Township's cost share of the Schley Farm easement purchase for farmland preservation. Ken Novak motioned to approve. Juergen Huelsebusch seconded. Motion passed with Earle Steeves abstaining and Bill Bowlby and Don Broughton absent from the vote.

AGENDA 4. Review/Final Recommendation Nonprofit Grant Program Applications

- Combined with Cooperative Grant discussion

AGENDA 5. Review/Final Recommendation Cooperative Grant Program Applications

Due to the connected nature of the requests received, all nonprofit and cooperative applications were discussed together

- Staff gave the Committee an overview of all received applications:
 - Francavilla – D&R Greenway & Rartian Twp
 - Lindbergh Rd – D&R Greenway & East Amwell Twp
 - Pelio – NJCF & Lebanon Township
 - Pine Brook – Kingwood Twp
 - Reifinger – Bethlehem Twp

Staff then presented the available remaining funding for both Grant programs and the total amount

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of the associated requests from each application. The Committee discussed each project and reviewed the scoring and ranking of each to determine if any application did not qualify for funding. The Committee determined that all applications were acceptable and moved on to determining the highest ranked project. Informal polling was done to determine a consensus regarding the top priority project. Ken Novak made a motion to recommend approval of the Pelio applications by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and Lebanon Township. Juergen Huelsebusch seconded. Motion passed.

The remaining applications were discussed and the Committee weighed their qualities and contribution to the open space in the county against the remaining funding. Additional informal polling was conducted to gauge the Committee's opinion on the funding scenario. Jordan Guenther made a motion to recommend approval for Bethlehem Township's application for the Reifinger property and the two applications by D&R Greenway and East Amwell Township for the Lindbergh Road property, subject to the Board of Chosen Freeholders approving additional funding from prior year's unexpended grant program balances. Ken Novak seconded. Motion approved.

AGENDA 6. – PARKS OPERATIONAL

- Staff gave an update on all the various pending projects happening within the Parks System including the pond and dam repair at Deer Path, the Heron Glen groundbreaking, Prescott bridge, dog park improvements at Route 12, tree planting, Earth Day celebrations, treatment for algal blooms in the pond at Echo Hill, and the Summer Concert Series.

AGENDA 7. – NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

- Staff gave an update to the status of the Strategic Parks Plan as well as the progress in moving forward with the transfer of the Wescott House and surrounding property to Delaware Township.

AGENDA 8. – POSAC/PUBLIC COMMENTS – Representatives from Lebanon Township thanked the Committee for their action on the Pelio project. Staff made mention of the use and success of the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program to repaint Parks signs. Juergen Huelsebusch noted that he was working with PSE&G on the potential of licensing vacant PSE&G property by entering into an agreement to utilize the property for trails and the location of kiosks. There are a few properties on Round Mountain that this might be beneficial.

AGENDA 9. – FREEHOLDER COMMENTS - NONE

AGENDA 10. - ADJOURN – Having no further business, Ken Novak motioned to adjourn. Bill Bowlby seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by: *Bill Millette*, July 17th, 2017.