

**Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Advisory  
Committee Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2018**

**Called to Order / Flag Salute:** 6:33 led by Chair Sandy Lawson.

**New Member** Anne Kahwaty was sworn in by John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

**Visual Roll Call – Members Present:** Freeholder Assad Akhter, Kathleen M. Caren (County Open Space Coordinator), Greg Moore for Darryl Sparta (Parks Dept. Director), Jonathan Pera (Engineering Dept.), John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. (Assistant County Counsel), Kelly Ruffel (County Cultural and Historic Affairs), Chair - Sandy Lawson (Wanaque), Vice Chair - Bernie Vroom (Bloomingdale), Al Abdelaziz (Paterson), Isabel Agudelo (Passaic), Angela Fields (Paterson), Cindy Frank (Hawthorne), Bhupendra V. Gadhavi (Wayne), Maria-Elena Grant (West Milford), Anne Kahwaty (Little Falls), Steven Orsini, Jr. (North Haledon), Alice Szepietowski (Clifton).

**Absent:** Matthew P. Jordan, Esq. (Deputy County Administrator), Secretary - Maria Flynn (Woodland Park), Amy Jolin (Ringwood).

**Public Portion:** 6:35 Sandy called for a motion to open and close as no one from the public was present.

**Meeting Minutes:** 6:36 a motion was made to accept the minutes from March 22, 2018; they were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- Kathleen Caren led a detailed discussion on the 2018 applications. The committee decided to visit the following sites:

- City Green – Clifton
- Louis Street Park – Little Falls
- High Mountain School Playground – North Haledon
- Third Ward Park – Passaic
- Armory Park Dog Park Project – Passaic
- Madison and Hope Plaza - Passaic
- Hofstra Park – Prospect Park
- Lakeside Park – Wanaque
- Veteran’s Alliance Park – Wayne

The dates for the site visits will be determined. Kathleen advised she will make a presentation on those sites at the next meeting.

- There was discussion on how this year, the amount of funding matched by municipalities was very low. In the past, the committee has looked to the amount of municipal funding to indicate community support for the project and also the municipality’s commitment. This topic will be further discussed when individual applications are reviewed.

**New Business:**

- John Pogorelec and Kelly Ruffel reviewed and discussed the impact of the recent NJ Supreme Court decision that public money could no longer be used for churches. The court decided that the use of public funds cannot be for the benefit of houses of worship. Although the decision is expected to be appealed, the committee cannot award funds for historical preservation of houses of worship at this time. The decision does not impact grants previously awarded by the committee.

**Coordinator's Report:** Kathleen went over the Unexpended (outstanding) grant awards report with the committee. There have been a number of recent drawdowns and more are expected shortly. The reports will be updated as the funds are expended.

**Correspondence:** Kathleen advised the correspondence consisted of Status Reports from grant recipients and was noted in the Unexpended Awards Report (attached).

**Adjourned:** Motion to be adjourned was made at approximately 7:30 p.m.

**Next meeting is Thursday, May 24.**

Respectfully submitted,

*María-Elena Grant*