

**Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Advisory  
Committee Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2018**

**Swearing-In of New Members:** 6:30 sworn in by Assistant County Counsel John Pogorelec, Jr. Esq. Angela Fields (Paterson), Al Abdelaziz (Paterson), Steven Orsini, Jr. (North Haledon). (Note, new member Anne Kahwaty was excused and will be sworn in at the next meeting.)

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

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

Absent: Jonathan Pera (Engineering Dept.), Amy Jolin (Ringwood), Anne Kahwaty (Little Falls)

**Public Portion:** 6:34 Sandy Lawson called for a motion to open and close since no one from the public present. Alice Szepietowski motioned to open and Matthew P. Jordan seconded, Maria Elena Grant motioned to close and Al Abedlaziz seconded.

**Reorganization:** Nominations

- Chair: Sandy Lawson was nominated by Maria-Elena Grant and Bhupendra V. Gadhavi seconded. She accepted, committee all voted yes
- Vice Chair: Bernie Vroom was nominated by Matthew P. Jordan and Maria-Elena Grant second. He accepted, committee all voted yes
- Secretary: Maria Flynn was nominated by Sandy Lawson and Alice Szepietowski seconded. She accepted, committee all voted yes
- Introductions: Went around the room and we each introduced ourselves so new and old members knew who is who.

**Meeting Minutes:** 6:36 Maria Flynn motioned to accept minutes from November 16, 2017 and Bhupendra V. Gadhavi seconded. All voted yes except Matthew P. Jordan and Greg Moore (and others) abstained as they were not present at that meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Sandy Lawson had asked in November to put together a sub-committee to go over the New Rules and Matthew had added to the agenda a provision for the committee to adopt bylaws. Discussion went around that the rules (and bylaws) need reviewing/updating and should these be two separate committees. At first decision made to be two committees and then further discussion was decided to be one committee for Rules and Bylaws.

Matthew P. Jordan motioned, Al Abdelaziz seconded. Sandy asked for volunteers and the following members are on the sub-committee: Sandy Lawson, Kathleen Caren, Kelly Ruffel, Steven Orsini, Maria-Elena Grant, Matthew P. Jordan, Cindy Frank, John Pogorelec.

### **New Business:**

- Kelly Ruffel went over the 2018 HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT APPLICATIONS and reviewed some of the historic grants for 2018. Hamilton House Museum Restoration is for floors. Development of Construction Documents Schuyler-Colfax House for which a Needs Assessment had been funded last year. Lou Costello Park Revitalization still issue since Paterson owns and there is no written agreement between the two entities (NJCDC and the city) and who actually will get the funding. Also one draw down on NJCDC's 2016 funding for initial design but nothing but concept plan submitted. No real financial commitment from TD Bank. No MOU, not looking good. Discussion back and forth by committee members as well to the issues of this grant. Pompton Reformed Church Exterior Restoration church exterior in poor condition and needs repainting, monument rehab was funded last year but Kelly stated we do not fund for painting (considered "maintenance"). Ringwood Manor Carriage Barn Roof Repair roof repair of barn and is state-owned. Historically, the County has not funded State owned property per rules.
- Kathleen Caren went over the 2018 OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND and HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND requests. Highlights: Bloomingtondale Bogue Pond basketball court (second priority in 2017) was not funded last year, Highlands Nature Friends is on-going through some of the grant request is considered maintenance, North Haledon acquired a portion of the lot from the Board of Ed for playground improvements, Passaic Third Ward is for splash park, ice rink and surveillance system (which historically have not been funded), Ringwood property owned by Board of Ed and they are thinking to just let them keep grant funds from Hewitt Turf Field since D.E.P. denied, but according to Freeholders they no longer transfer grants, Wayne Auxiliary Field was also submitted but not funded last year. Kathleen will follow up on the applications that are missing documentation and update the committee.
- Matthew P. Jordan gave a snapshot of
  - City Green Dig-In Program – applications for the program are now open
  - Passaic Riverfront Park Project – received a \$5 million grant from D.E.P Green Acres. and the Freeholders will match. He felt this is going to be a nice addition to the park system.
  - Ongoing Passaic County Park System and Historic Site Improvement Projects

**Coordinator's Report:** Kathleen Caren went over the unexpended, outstanding grants report with the committee line by line. Clifton and Little Falls need to see why not drawing down. Woodland Park is a project that cannot start until additional funding is given. Haledon is working on, North Haledon delayed due to winter, Ringwood's Hewitt Field project has not received

NJD.E.P. approval (and likely will not) and they want to move funds to new grant but under new rules that will probably not be allowed, West Milford has received extensions on their grants (NJDEP delays).

**Correspondence:** Kathleen asked if anyone had any questions.

**Adjourned:** 7:30 motion by Matthew P. Jordan, second by Al Abdelaziz,

Next meeting is Thursday, April 26.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Flynn