

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.11(e), N.J.A.C. 7:36-25.5(a)3, and N.J.S.A. 13:8B-5 , a series of public hearings will be conducted on **Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 7:30pm** to solicit public comment on the following:

- The Township of Harding’s proposed disposal of 3.52 acres and diversion of 0.63 acre of the Glen Alpin Estate, 685 Mount Kemble Avenue, Harding Township (Block 34, Lot 1).
- The Harding Land Trust’s proposed transfer of its fourteen percent (14%) interest in the Glen Alpin Estate to the Township of Harding.
- The Township of Harding’s proposed transfer of its fifty percent (50%) interest in the Gatehouse property (Block 23, Lot 1, located at 110 Harter Avenue in Harding Township) to Harding Land Trust.
- The Township of Harding’s proposed conveyance of a public access and trail easement on the Glen Alpin Estate to the Morris County Park Commission.
- The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s proposed transfer of a conservation easement granted by Harding Land Trust from the Glen Alpin Estate to the Gatehouse property.

All hearings are associated with Harding Township’s application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Green Acres Program, proposing to dispose of 3.52 acres and divert 0.63 acre of the Glen Alpin Estate. The primary purpose of the proposed diversion and disposal is to ensure the long-term preservation of the historic residence by conveying the disposal area to a private entity with the resources necessary to properly restore and maintain the historic building. The disposal area will be conveyed to a private entity in fee, and the diversion area will be used for access and utility easements to serve the redevelopment of the disposal area. As compensation for the 4.15 acres proposed for diversion/disposal, Harding Township intends to or has already acquired the following replacement properties within Harding Township: Block 8, Lot 5.01 (known as the Culbertson property) and Block 46, Lot 13.03 (known as the NJDOT property). These lands total 18 acres and are contiguous to existing preserved open space parcels.

The Glen Alpin Estate is also subject to a conservation easement granted to the NJDEP by the Township of Harding and Harding Land Trust on October 19, 2004 as a condition of Green Acres nonprofit acquisition funding awarded to Harding Land Trust for the purchase of a fourteen percent (14%) undivided interest in the Estate. The Township and Harding Land Trust have agreed to exchange the Land Trust’s partial interest in the Glen Alpin Estate for the Township’s fifty percent (50%) interest in the Gatehouse Property). As a result, the NJDEP wishes to transfer the Green Acres nonprofit funding easement from the Glen Alpin Estate to the Gatehouse property. The portion of the Glen Alpin property that will continue to be owned by the Township following the proposed disposal was also purchased with Green Acres funds and will continue to be encumbered with Green Acres restrictions.

All notices and documents related to these hearings are available under the Quick Links tab entitled “Glen Alpin Disposal/Diversion Application – Green Acres” at: <http://www.hardingnj.org/>

The public hearings will be held virtually via video conference, by phone, and with limited in-person attendance pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 (effective on September 23, 2020) on:

January 28, 2021 at 7:30pm.

By Computer:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/281308229>

By Phone:

1 (646) 749-3122 / Access Code: 281-308-229

In-Person:

Kirby Municipal Building

21 Blue Mill Road

New Vernon, NJ 07976

If you would like to participate in the meeting in person, pre-registration is required by contacting the Municipal Clerk by email at lsharp@hardingnj.org or by phone at (973) 267-8000, extension 1968. In the event of a snowstorm, an announcement will be made prior to the hearing on Harding Township's website at <http://www.hardingnj.org/> under the Quick Links tab entitled "Glen Alpin Disposal/Diversion Application – Green Acres". If the hearing is postponed due to a snowstorm, the snow date for the hearing will be February 4, 2021. In the event of a snowstorm, the public may attend the February 4, 2021 meeting: (1) by computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/708223221>; (2) by phone at 1 (872) 240-3212 / Access Code: 708-223-221; or (3) in-person at the Kirby Municipal Building.

The application and documents related to the proposed diversion/disposal and the proposed transfers are available for in-person review at the Kirby Municipal Building and the Kemmerer Public Library by contacting the Municipal Clerk by email at lsharp@hardingnj.org or by phone at (973) 267-8000, extension 1968, or by contacting the Green Acres Program offices at Adam.Taylor@dep.nj.gov.

Written comments on the application and the proposed transfers may be directed to the Municipal Clerk at Harding Township, P.O. Box 666, 21 Blue Mill Road, New Vernon, NJ or by email at lsharp@hardingnj.org. Please also send a copy of any written comments submitted on this application to the NJDEP Green Acres Program, Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship, 501 East State Street, 1st Floor, Mail Code 501-01, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, Attention: Adam Taylor or by email to Adam.Taylor@dep.nj.gov. Due to remote working arrangements during the current state of public health emergency, email comments are preferred.

Public comment on the Township's application and the proposed transfers will be accepted during the hearing or by written submission until February 12, 2021. In the event of a snowstorm postponing the hearing, written public comment will be accepted until February 19, 2021.