

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 24, 2021
12:00 PM
Via Video and Teleconference**

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM. A quorum of trustees was present. At least one of the trustees was a state governmental representative.

The Open Public Meetings Act notice was provided as follows: Notice of the date, time, location, and agenda, to the extent known, was forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation, and provided to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. In addition, notice was provided on the Trust's website in compliance with the Act requiring State, regional, and local authorities, boards, and commissions to establish a website providing specific information to facilitate transparency in government.

In attendance were:

Michael Catania, Chairperson
Anne Heasley, Vice Chairperson
Senator Bob Smith, State House
Commission representative, Trustee
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee
Emile DeVito, Trustee

Robert Jackson, Trustee
Hannah Good, Trustee representative for the
State Treasurer
Marlen Dooley, Trustee representative for
the DEP Commissioner
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Martin Rapp, Trust Staff
Cari Wild, Trust Staff
Terry Schmidt, Trust Staff

Absent:

Theresa Lettman, Trustee/Secretary-
Treasurer

Guests: None.

Welcome and Introductions to new Trustees

New Trustees Anne Heasley and Robert Jackson were introduced and welcomed.

General Public Comment:

Mr. Catania presented the **Resolutions** thanking and recognizing Steve Eisenhower and Martin Rapp for their many years of service to the Trust for approval. Senator Smith motioned for Mr. Eisenhower's Resolution to be approved. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0. Mr. DeVito motioned for Mr. Rapp's Resolution to be approved. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0.

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarters ending March 31 and June 30, 2021. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Ms. Yeany seconded the motion, and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

The **March 5, 2021 minutes** were reviewed. Senator Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Yeany seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 6 to 0, with Ms. Dooley, Ms. Heasley, and Mr. Jackson abstaining.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Catania and Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report**. In November 2020, the William Penn Foundation awarded the Trust with a two-year \$70,000 grant to continue environmental educational programming at Petty's Island. The final year of the Trust's contract with NJ Audubon Society to provide this programming was 2021. In June 2021, the Trust rebid the contract. The Trust received proposals from two qualified educational programming contractors with one proposal \$15,000 per year more than the other. The Trust award the contract to the low qualified bidder, the Center for Aquatic Sciences (CAS), on the same basis of the two prior contracts, with it being a one-year contract with four one-year renewal options. CAS is very familiar with Petty's Island because it has been doing programming there over the past few years under grant funding provided to Discover the Delaware, of which the Trust is a member, through the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.

Michael Catania and Cari Wild met with DEP Deputy Commissioner Sean Moriarty on Petty's Island site remediation issues on August 19, 2021. Deputy Commissioner Moriarty will be scheduling a follow up meeting with the Trust, the DEP Site Remediation Program, CITGO Petroleum Company, and its Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) in the next month.

New Business:

Ms. Yeany motion to nominate Anne Heasley for Vice Chairperson. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

Trust Transitions

Mr. Cartica outlined the steps being taken to address Mr. Rapp's retirement on October 1, 2021. Mr. Cartica expressed that a lateral transfer within DEP is our best opportunity to backfill the position. He introduced Ms. Terry Schmidt, who in addition to her duties for the State Park Service, will be serving as the Trust land manager for South Jersey while the Trust seeks to backfill the position. He noted that the Trust is seeking to regionalize the position since Trust preserves extend from Montague Township in Sussex County to Lower Township in Cape May County, which is too large an area for one land manager. The Trust used to receive an appropriation in the annual State Budget supporting three full-time Trust positions. Currently the Trust has no state budget appropriation and relies on DEP positions for support. Mr. DeVito added that he has worked well with Ms. Schmidt over the years and is excited for her to be joining the Trust.

The last scheduled 2021 Board meeting is December 3, 2021.

Mr. Jackson motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Cari Wild
Secretary/Treasurer