DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SHC APPROVAL SUMMARY SHEET

NJDEP AREA: White Lake

OWNER: Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish & Wildlife

COUNTY: Warren    MUNICIPALITY: Township of Hardwick

REASON FOR REQUEST:
- Easement [ ] Acre(s): +/- 3.07 acres
- Diversion [ ] Block: 902, p/o Lot 10
- Lease [x] Value: N/A

TENANT: Township of Hardwick

COMPENSATION:
- Land [ ]
- Cash Payment [x] One-time payment of $20.00
- Park Improvements [ ]

PUBLIC HEARINGS: N/A

COMMENTS: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") requests approval to enter into a lease with the Township of Hardwick for the restoration, preservation, development, improvement, maintenance, operation and interpretation of the Vass Farmstead as a historic site and making it available for public visitation and recreational uses. The Initial Term of the lease is for five (5) years, with an option to renew for an additional three (3), five (5) year terms.


APPROVAL:


[Signature]
Ray Bukowski, Assistant Commissioner

[Date]
10/21/21
SHC FACT SHEET

The NJDEP request approval to lease property to the Township of Hardwick for the restoration, preservation, development, improvement, maintenance, operation and interpretation of the Vass Farmstead as a historic site and making it available for public visitation and recreational uses. The NJDEP has determined that leasing the property to the Township of Hardwick will not interfere with reasonably anticipated plans for development of the property for recreation and conservation purposes as part of White Lake Wildlife Management Area and the best interest of the people of the State of New Jersey will be served by leasing the property to the Township of Hardwick. In addition, the Township is prepared to provide enhanced public interpretive programming for this historic site listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places that cannot be provided by NJDEP.

The Township’s direct role in future development, maintenance, management operation, and investment in the property eliminates the oversight, and those costs for the NJDEP. Therefore, the rent of twenty ($20.00) dollars for the term of the lease is justified. The NJDEP will post this summary on its website at https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/business_ops/index.htm for public notification.

Property: The leased premise consists of approximately 3.07 acres on Block 902, p/o Lot 10 in the Township of Hardwick, County of Warren, State of New Jersey. The leased premises are identified on the attached map.

Purpose: The Township of Hardwick will utilize the leased premises for the purpose of the restoration, preservation, development, improvement, maintenance, operation and interpretation of the Vass Farmstead as a historic site and making it available for public visitation and recreational uses. The Initial Term of the lease is for five (5) years, with an option to renew for an additional three (3), five (5) year terms.

Alternatives: Not entering into the lease with Hardwick Township would severely impact public visitation and interpretation of the historic site.

Public Need/Benefit: The lease will provide a great benefit to the public through the interpretive programs, projects and activities to enhance public awareness of the historic significance of the property.

Compensation: A one-time payment of twenty ($20.00) dollars and the investment being made by the Township of Hardwick for the restoration, preservation, development, improvement, maintenance, operation and interpretation of the Vass Farmstead as a historic site on the leased premises.