

Garden State Preservation Trust
April 30, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Michael Murphy called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. Executive Director Ralph Siegel read a statement certifying compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and then called the roll. Chairman Murphy asked everyone to turn off cellphones and to refrain from flash photography. Public members in attendance were: Chairman Murphy, vice-chairman Ken Atkinson, Andrew Buzby and Gregory Romano. Ex-officio members in attendance were Tim Brill (for Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher), Martha Sapp (for DEP Commissioner Bob Martin), James Requa (for Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Richard E. Constable III) and Anthony Longo (for Treasurer Andrew P. Sidamon-Eristoff).

Public board member Robert Hughey was absent, having notified the GSPT office he would be out of the state for the meeting.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Murphy welcomed members to the meeting. He noted it has been a long time since the last meeting (6 months) and he thanked members for remaining available and for making the effort to attend the meetings of the Trust even when they are rarely scheduled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOV. 21, 2012, BOARD MEETING

Chairman Murphy asked if there were any corrections or clarifications to the draft minutes of the meeting. Mr. Romano pointed out a typographical error. Mr. Siegel noted the consideration of these official minutes was a formality because a substantive version of the minutes had been submitted in November and had completed the Governor's veto review process.

Moved by Chairman Murphy

Seconded by Mr. Requa

Approved 7-0.

Mr. Atkinson abstained because he was absent for the Nov. 21 meeting.

Chairman Murphy directed Mr. Siegel to conduct the elections after explaining the provisions of the "convoluted" GSPT statute concerning the election of officers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2013

Mr. Siegel explained the statutory rotation of chairmanship meant that in 2013, one of the Senate President's appointees was to serve as chair. He noted that there are two Senate appointees, Mr. Romano and Mr. Hughey, who is serving in a holdover status because his 5-year term has formally expired. Mr. Siegel explained that Mr. Hughey, who knew he would be absent from today's meeting, told him he would remain a member of the Trust in a holdover capacity as long as needed until such time as the Senate President made a new appointment, but that he did not wish to be reappointed and that he was ceding his right to run for office on the GSPT. This means that Mr. Romano is the only available candidate to be elected Chairman under the rotation requirement of the GSPT statute.

Chairman Murphy nominated Mr. Romano as chair for 2013.
Ms. Sapp seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.
Approved 8-0 to elect Mr. Romano chairman for 2013.

(His election does not take effect until the end of the Governor's veto period so Chairman Murphy remained chair of the meeting.)

Mr. Siegel explained the vice-chairman could be elected from any of the public board members.

Mr. Romano, the chairman-elect, nominated Mr. Atkinson as vice-chair for 2013.
Chairman Murphy seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.
Approved 8-0 to elect Mr. Atkinson as vice-chairman for 2013.

Mr. Siegel explained the board could elect anyone to serve as Secretary and as Treasurer and could combine the positions. The statute does not require these posts to be held by a voting board member. He explained the posts have been combined since 2004.

Mr. Atkinson nominated Mr. Siegel to combined post of Secretary-Treasurer for 2013.
Mr. Romano seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.
Approved 8-0 to elect Mr. Siegel Secretary-Treasurer for 2013.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Siegel welcomed Anthony Longo from the Office of Public Finance as the new ex-officio designee for the Treasurer and Tim Brill of the State Agriculture Development Committee as the backup ex-officio designee for the Agriculture Secretary. He welcomed Peter Simon from the Authorities Unit of the Governor's Counsels Office.

Mr. Siegel reviewed the contents of the meeting books, made note of important news stories and press releases contained therein.

Mr. Siegel noted that copies of the final draft of the FY2012 Annual Report of the Garden State Preservation Trust were in the members' books. He asked Trust board members to review the final draft and to contact him within the week for any suggested amendments or changes so he could get the report to the printer and distribute it to the Legislature.

Mr. Siegel said all of the appropriations approved by the Trust at its meetings last September and November have worked their way through the Legislature in the form of Appropriations Acts, and that the Governor signed those bills into law on January 25.

Mr. Siegel discussed the fiscal conditions of funding available for the NJ Historic Trust. He said the 2009 Bond Fund provided \$12 million in appropriations capacity. He said \$8.7 million was appropriated in 2011, leaving \$3.2 million in appropriations capacity based on bonds to be issued. He said the proposal today is to use \$1.4 million of that remaining capacity for the round of grants being recommended, and that he could report the remaining appropriations capacity was sufficient to cover these recommendations.

PRESENTATION OF THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY2013

Mr. Siegel explained that details of the Historic Trust grant recommendations are in the members' meeting books and were circulated to them in the mail last week.

Mr. Siegel welcomed Dorothy Guzzo, Executive Director of the New Jersey Historic Trust, to the meeting.

Ms. Guzzo made a presentation to explain the Historic Site Management (HSM) planning grant recommendations. She thanked the Trust board members for taking the time to come to Trenton to consider these recommendations. She explained the smaller HSM grants ranging to \$50,000 are for planning and design in order to keep these projects moving toward larger capital projects or tourism development.

Ms. Guzzo said her office received 69 applications from local governments or nonprofits requesting about twice the grant funding available. She said HSM applications must be for sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places or are deemed eligible for such listing. She reviewed the criteria by which these projects are evaluated, including the organization's fiscal and managerial ability to conduct the project and fulfil the requirements for matching funds.

Ms. Guzzo said HSM grants included initiatives for energy conservation and for the evaluation of visitor interests, patterns and needs.

Using a slideshow presentation to show photographs with fiscal charts for the 37 projects recommended to receive grants.

Ms. Guzzo said her office is conducting a comprehensive study of all projects since the first grants were awarded in 1990. She said a survey went out to project owners

last year, and that staff were currently examining the results and reviewing the projects over the past three decades. She said the survey identified \$800 million in documented need, with the largest percentages coming from State Parks and universities. She said she hopes to issue a report later this year.

Ms. Sapp asked how the applicants were evaluated for fiscal performance. Ms. Guzzo said they examine whether they have paid staff or a good track record. She said if they have organizational weaknesses the Historic Trust staff will step in to assist them if the project site is important enough.

Mr. Romano asked about the criteria for the ownership of the site. Ms. Guzzo said they generally want to see that the applicant has a lease on the site they are managing. Mr. Romano asked specifically about a Preservation New Jersey application to rehabilitate a historic site in Ewing, and Ms. Guzzo said they did have a lease to operate the site.

Mr. Romano asked about plans for the remaining funds. Ms. Guzzo said the Historic Trust board has been discussing a small grant round next year, perhaps with a focus on disaster management planning.

Mr. Siegel asked if this was the first grant from Preservation New Jersey, a nonprofit advocacy group. Ms. Guzzo said it was their first project.

Mr. Siegel noted the church was in a key spot and has drawn a great deal of newspaper publicity.

Chairman Murphy asked about the duration of the lease. Ms. Guzzo said it had to be a minimum of 15 years to qualify for an HSM grant. She said it was definitely a threatened resource. Mr. Brill pointed out the project description in the members' books noted the lease was for 50 years.

**RESOLUTION #13-001 TO APPROVE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT GRANTS FOR
FY2013 FROM THE 2009 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOND FUND PL 2009
C.117.**

Chairman Murphy asked for motions to approve the resolution to move the project recommendations to the Legislature.

Moved by Mr. Atkinson.

Seconded by Mr. Requa.

Approved 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Murphy asked if any board members had additional comments and then solicited public comment.

Kelly Mooij of New Jersey Audubon and the Keep-It-Green Coalition introduced herself and said she was hopeful that the Legislature would move forward soon on a funding source for historic projects and also for the Green Acres and Farmland Preservation programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Murphy asked to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Siegel reminded members that some of them had not filed their Financial Disclosure Statements due in two weeks. (All were filed on time.)

Moved by Mr. Romano.

Seconded by Ms. Sapp.

Approved by voice vote 8-0.

Others in attendance representing agencies:

DAG Cliff Rones, Peter Simon of the Office of the Governor's Counsel, Kelly Mooij of the Keep-It-Green Coalition, OLS staff member Carrie Anne Calvo-Hahn and legislative staff member Thea Sheridan.