

Garden State Preservation Trust
November 17, 2020, Substantive Meeting Minutes
Teleconference 11 a.m.

Chairman Andy Buzby called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

Executive Director Ralph Siegel read a statement that advance notice of at least 48 hours of the date, time, agenda summary and toll-free teleconference number with access code of this public Conference Call meeting of the Garden State Preservation Trust for Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 11 a.m. was given and distributed in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, and as amended by PL 2020 Chapter 11, to Statehouse Press Corps, specifically to the Associated Press, Bloomberg News, New Jersey Spotlight, New Jersey Public Media, NJ Advance Media and News 12 New Jersey, and to the Office of Legislative Services and to the Office of the New Jersey Secretary of State for due notification and to be posted, published and broadcast.

Mr. Siegel called the roll. Public members in attendance on the call were: Chairman Buzby, Vice-Chairman Greg Romano and Ben Spinelli. Ex-officio members in attendance on the call were Susan Payne (for Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher), Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski (for DEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe), Dorothy Guzzo (for Community Affairs Commissioner Lt. Gov. Sheila Y. Oliver) and David Moore (for Treasurer Elizabeth Muoio).

The eighth and ninth positions on the board are vacant.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Buzby welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2020, BOARD MEETING

Chairman Buzby asked if there were any other corrections or clarifications to the draft minutes of the meeting. There were none. Mr. Siegel noted the consideration of these official minutes was a formality because a substantive version of the minutes had been submitted on Oct. 13 and had completed the Governor's veto period.

Moved by Vice Chairman Romano

Seconded by Assistant Commissioner Bukowski

Approved 6-0

Ms. Guzzo abstained because she had not participated in the Oct 13. meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021

Mr. Siegel explained the rotation of the chair as defined in the statutory language of the Garden State Preservation Trust Act. He said in 2021 the Governor's appointee was to serve as chair but that seat was vacated with the resignation of Andrew McNally on Oct. 12. This means any public board member could be available as candidate for chairman.

Chairman Buzby nominated Vice Chairman Romano to serve as chairman for 2021.
Assistant Commissioner Bukowski seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.

Approved 7-0 to elect Vice-Chairman Romano as chairman for 2021.

(Chairman Buzby remained as chair for the meeting because the election does not take effect until the end of the Governor's veto period.)

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

Chairman Buzby nominated Ben Spinelli as vice-chair for 2021.

Ms. Payne seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.

Approved 7-0 to elect Ben Spinelli as vice-chair for 2021.

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.

Vice-Chairman Romano nominated Mr. Siegel to serve in the combined post of Secretary-Treasurer for 2021.

Ms. Payne seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.

Approved 7-0 to elect Mr. Siegel Secretary-Treasurer for 2021.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF MEETING DATES FOR 2021

Mr. Siegel recommended the same meeting dates used this year be scheduled for 2021. These dates are Tuesday Oct. 12 and Tuesday Nov. 18.

Moved by Ms. Payne

Seconded by Vice-Chairman Romano

Approved unanimously 7-0 by voice vote to proceed with two scheduled meetings on October 12, 2021, and November 18, 2021.

Ms. Guzzo said the Historic Trust may require a meeting in the spring. Mr. Siegel noted the chairman has the authority to call a meeting as needed.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #20-007 TO APPROVE \$10,777,499 TO FUND NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AND HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT GRANTS FOR FY2021 FROM THE PRESERVE NJ (CBT) HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Chairman Buzby asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Vice Chairman Romano

Seconded by Assistant Commissioner Bukowski

Approved 6-0

Mr. Moore left the meeting at 11:58

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$10.8 million for Historic Preservation Capital Level I & Capital Level II Grants, Multi-Phase Grants, Historic Site Management Grants and Historic Site Heritage Tourism as recommended by and to be carried out by the New Jersey Historic Trust. It is funded from CBT 2021 revenues and from reserve CBT funds made available from previous years.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #20-008 TO APPROVE \$27,348,300 TO FUND GREEN ACRES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE ACQUISITION FUNDING IN NINE PROJECT AREAS FOR FY2021 FROM THE PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) GREEN ACRES FUND.

Chairman Buzby asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Spinelli

Seconded by Ms. Payne

Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$27.4 million for Green Acres State Acquisitions in nine designated project areas: Cape May Peninsula, Crossroads of American Revolution, Delaware & Raritan Canal Greenway, Delaware Bay Watershed Greenway, Delaware River Greenway, Highlands Greenway, Historic Resources, Pinelands area, & the Ridge & Valley Greenway. It is funded from CBT 2021 revenues and from reserve CBT funds made available from previous years.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #20-009 TO APPROVE \$3,038,700 TO FUND GREEN ACRES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BLUE ACRES FLOOD SITE ACQUISITIONS STATEWIDE FOR FY2021 FROM THE PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) GREEN ACRES FUND.

Mr. Siegel asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Payne

Seconded by Mr. Spinelli

Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$3 million for Blue Acres flood-site acquisitions statewide. It is funded entirely from CBT FY2021 revenues.

(There is no reference to the “dormant” Preserve New Jersey Blue Acres Fund, which was used for flood-site acquisition appropriations in FY2020. The original CBT allocations law adopted in 2016, P.L. 2016 Ch. 12, created four trust funds including a Blue Acres fund. The replacement allocation law adopted in 2019, P.L. 2019 Ch. 136, reduced the CBT allocations to three trust funds and eliminated a discrete Blue Acres trust fund for flood-site acquisitions.)

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #20-010 TO APPROVE \$37,160,000 TO FUND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING FOR FY2021 FROM THE PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) GREEN ACRES FUND.

Mr. Siegel asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Spinelli

Seconded by Ms. Guzzo

Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of a record \$37.16 million for Capital Projects in State Parks, Forests and Wildlife Management Areas under the jurisdictions of the DEP Division of Parks & Forestry and the Division of Fish & Wildlife. It is funded from CBT FY2021 revenues.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Buzby asked to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Romano

Seconded by Ms. Payne

Approved 6-0 by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Siegel', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ralph Siegel
executive director/board secretary
Nov. 17, 2020