

Garden State Preservation Trust
January 12, 2006
Conference Call Meeting Minutes

Executive Director Ralph Siegel, functioning in his role as secretary-treasurer, chaired the meeting in the absence of a chairman or vice-chairman. Mr. Siegel called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. and read a statement certifying compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Roll call was taken. Public members participating in the conference call were: Michael Murphy, Jan Rosenfeld and Herbert Wegner. Ex-officio members participating in the conference call were: Susan Craft (for Agriculture Secretary Charles Kuperus) and John Flynn (for DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell). Peter Kasabach (for Acting Community Affairs Commissioner Charles A. Richman) participated later in the meeting. Chairman Robert DiVincent and David Rousseau (for State Treasurer John E. McCormac) were absent. Vice chairman Dennis Davidson resigned in December.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Siegel welcomed everyone to the call, thanked them for participating and promised to keep the call brief. Mr. Siegel reviewed the agenda. He explained the rotation of chairmanship as specified in the Garden State Preservation Trust Act and that during 2006 only the single Governor's appointee could serve as chairman.

Mr. Siegel explained the need for a minor amendment to the GSPT's Draft Code of Ethics adopted in October 2005. The proposed change would permit members to receive honoraria for making speeches that have no connection with their Trust duties or with any agencies or interests funded by the Trust.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2006

Chairing the meeting, Mr. Siegel opened the floor to accept nominations for the position of chairman of the Garden State Preservation Trust for 2006.

Ms. Rosenfeld nominated Mr. Murphy

Mr. Wegner seconded

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.

Approved 5-0 to elect Mr. Murphy chairman for 2006.

Mr. Siegel was reminded by Ms. Craft to open the floor to accept nominations for the position of vice chairman of the Garden State Preservation Trust for 2006.

Mr. Murphy nominated Mr. DiVincent to be vice chairman for 2006.

Ms. Craft seconded.

Mr. Siegel asked if there were any additional nominations.

There were none.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.

Approved 5-0 to elect Mr. DiVincent vice chairman for 2006.

Mr. Siegel was reminded by Ms. Craft to open the floor to accept nominations for the positions of secretary and treasurer of the Garden State Preservation Trust for 2006. Ms. Craft nominated Mr. Siegel to the combined post of secretary/treasurer for 2006. Mr. Murphy seconded.

Ms. Siegel asked if there were any additional nominations.

There were none.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.

Approved 5-0 to elect Mr. Siegel secretary/treasurer for 2005.

RESOLUTION #06-001

Resolution of the Garden State Preservation Trust to amend the Draft Code of Ethics approved in Resolution #05-012 on Oct. 25, 2005.

Moved by Ms. Rosenfeld

Seconded by Ms. Craft

Approved 5-0

Mr. Kasabach joins the call at 11:08 a.m. as this roll call vote is taken. He is not included in the roll call.

TRUST MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Wegner expressed his concern about bill S-206 permitting nonagricultural commercial activities on preserved farmland. Ms. Craft said the bill passed the Senate January 9 and she expects Governor Codey to sign it before his term ends January 17. Ms. Craft said the bill was intended to help owners of preserved farmland improve commercial revenue. She said it would affect a limited number of farms preserved years ago without nonseverable exceptions to permit some nonagricultural commercial activity within existing structures.

Mr. Wegner said media reports and public relations fallout from the bill reflect badly on the Farmland Preservation Program with false claims that retail stores like "Wawa" would appear on preserved farmland. He said these claims have prompted opposition to preservation funding. Ms. Craft agreed.

Mr. Wegner (who owns a preserved farm) called for a public relations effort at the State Agriculture Development Committee to give the public a correct view on S-206. Ms. Craft agreed and said such an effort is already being developed.

Mr. Flynn questioned whether commercial activity on a preserved farm allowable under S-206 would nullify tax deductions that may have been claimed for bargain sale donations on preserved farms.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Siegel adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ralph Siegel
executive director
board secretary
May 16, 2006

Approved 6-0 May 16, 2006