

Garden State Preservation Trust
October 8, 2019, Substantive Meeting Minutes
Statehouse Annex Meeting Room 15

Chairman Greg Romano called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Executive Director Ralph Siegel read a statement that advance notice of at least 48 hours was given of the date, time, place and agenda of this public meeting of the Garden State Preservation Trust for Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 11 a.m., and distributed in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act to Statehouse Press Corps, specifically to the Associated Press, Bloomberg News, New Jersey Spotlight, Town Square Radio Network, New Jersey Public Media NJTV and News 12 New Jersey, and to various Statehouse offices, 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 were: Chairman Romano and Vice-Chairman Andrew Buzby. Ex-officio members in attendance 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 Michael Kanef (for Treasurer Elizabeth Muoio).

Public members Andrew McNally and Ben Spinelli were absent. The ninth position on the board is vacant.

OPENING REMARKS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOV. 20 2018 BOARD MEETING

Chairman Romano 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 Nov. 20 and had completed the Governor's veto period.

Moved by Ms. Payne

Seconded by Mr. Kanef

Approved 5-0

Assistant Commissioner Bukowski abstained because he had not attended the Nov. 20 meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020

Mr. Siegel explained the statutory rotation of officers as defined in the statutory language of the Garden State Preservation Trust Act. He said in 2020 one of the Assembly Speaker's appointees was to serve as chair. This means Vice-Chairman Buzby is the only available candidate for chairman because the other board seat to be filled by the Assembly Speaker remains vacant.

Ms. Payne nominated Vice-Chairman Buzby to serve as chairman for 2020. Assistant Commissioner Bukowski seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote.

Approved 6-0 to elect Vice-Chairman Buzby as chairman for 2020. (Chairman Romano 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.

Vice-Chairman Buzby nominated Chairman Romano as vice-chair for 2020.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote. Approved 6-0 to elect Chairman Romano as vice-chair for 2020.

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.

Ms. Payne nominated Mr. Siegel to serve in the combined post of Secretary-Treasurer for 2020. Vice Chairman Buzby seconded the nomination.

Mr. Siegel conducted a roll call vote. Approved 6-0 to elect Mr. Siegel Secretary-Treasurer for 2019.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF MEETING DATES FOR 2020

Mr. Siegel directed members' attention to the proposed calendar contained in the Members' Meeting Books. He recommended that the board proceed without adopting a schedule of meetings for 2020, thus leaving it up to the Chairman to call meetings as needed.

Instead, Ms. Payne recommended that one meeting, Oct. 13, be adopted as scheduled and that the rest of the year remain open. Mr. Siegel requested that the Project Submission Deadline for that one Oct. 13 meeting be moved up to Monday Sept. 30 to accommodate the heavier workload for preparation of resolutions and documents.

Moved by Ms. Payne
Seconded by Assistant Commissioner Bukowski
Approved unanimously 6-0 by voice vote to proceed with one scheduled meeting on October 13, 2020.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-001 TO HONOR KEN ATKINSON FOR 10 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST AS BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN.

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Payne
 Seconded by Vice Chairman Buzby
 Approved 6-0

Mr. Siegel requested permission to poll by email the absent public board members for their consent so the commemorative resolution for Mr. Atkinson could bear all of the names of the board members. The members present agreed by voice consensus.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-002 TO APPROVE \$86,229,460 TO FUND GREEN ACRES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL AND NONPROFIT LAND ACQUISITION, RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT GRANTS FOR FY2020 FROM THE PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) GREEN ACRES FUND, UNUSED BOND FUNDS AND THE DIESEL RISK MITIGATION FUND

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Payne
 Seconded by Vice Chairman Buzby
 Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$86.2 million for Green Acres Local Acquisition, Recreational Development and Stewardship grants as well as Nonprofit Acquisition, Recreational Development and Stewardship grants.

The sources of funding break down as follows:

- **\$79 million from CBT FY2020 funds & CBT funds carried forward from FY2019**
- **\$1.5 million from leftover Diesel Risk Mitigation funds**
- **\$5.7 million from old GSPT, 2007 & 2009 Bond Funds**

THIS FUNDING approved by the board of the Garden State Preservation Trust was subsequently changed in Senate Bill 4311 to use \$23.8 million from loan repayments, a source of funds which had not been reported to the GSPT board at the time of its deliberations. This reduced the use of CBT funds, which will then carry forward to the following fiscal year. S-4311 was approved by Legislature and signed by the Governor.

The revised sources of funding break down as follows:

- **\$55.9 million from CBT FY2020 funds & CBT funds carried forward from FY2019.**
- **\$23.8 million from old GSPT, 2007 & 2009 Bond Funds made available through Green Trust loan repayments.**
- **\$5.1 million from old GSPT, 2007 & 2009 Bond Funds made available from project cancellations and withdrawals**
- **\$1.5 million from leftover Diesel Risk Mitigation funds**

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-003 TO APPROVE \$500,000 TO FUND THE GREEN ACRES RECOMMENDATION FOR A NONPROFIT LAND ACQUISITION GRANT TO THE NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION FOR FY2020 FROM THE PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) GREEN ACRES FUND AND FROM THE DIESEL RISK MITIGATION FUND

Mr. Siegel explained this resolution has been prepared as a separate action to allow Chairman Romano to recuse himself while participating in the vote on the main package in Resolution #19-002.

Moved by Ms. Payne
Seconded by Mr. Kanef
Approved 5-0

Chairman Romano explained his recusal because he was recently employed by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of an additional, single Nonprofit grant of \$500,000 to New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF). It was separated from the main project package in #19-002 so that a board member recently employed by NJCF could recuse on #19-003 while preserving his ability to vote for the main package in #19-002. It is funded from CBT 2020 revenues.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-004 TO APPROVE \$29,314,000 TO FUND GREEN ACRES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE ACQUISITION FUNDING IN EIGHT PROJECT AREAS FOR FY2020 FROM THE PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) GREEN ACRES FUND AND FROM THE DIESEL RISK MITIGATION FUND

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Payne
Seconded by Mr. Kanef
Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$29.3 million for Green Acres State Acquisitions in eight designated project areas: Barnegat Bay Watershed Greenway, Cape May Peninsula, Crossroads of American Revolution, Delaware Bay Watershed Greenway, Highlands Greenway, Historic Resources, Pinelands & Ridge & Valley Greenway. It is funded from CBT 2020 revenues.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-005 TO APPROVE \$4,601,000 FOR GREEN ACRES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BLUE ACRES PROPERTY ACQUISITION FUNDING FOR FY2020 FROM THE PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) GREEN ACRES FUND AND FROM THE DORMANT PRESERVE NEW JERSEY (CBT) BLUE ACRES FUND.

Mr. Siegel explained this was a separate resolution because of a separate funding source, namely the dormant Preserve NJ Blue Acres Preservation Fund. Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Vice Chairman Buzby

Seconded by Ms. Payne

Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$4.6 million for Blue Acres flood site acquisitions statewide. It is funded from CBT FY2020 and FY2019 revenues, making reference to a “dormant” Preserve New Jersey Blue Acres Fund.

As originally constituted under P.L. 2016 Ch. 12, CBT funds were allocated to FOUR “Preserve New Jersey” trust funds: Green Acres, Farmland Preservation, Historic Preservation and Blue Acres. In July 2019, P.L. 2016 Ch. 12 was supplanted by the new reallocation law, P.L. 2019 Ch. 136. Under the new law, the “Preserve New Jersey” funds were consolidated into THREE with the “Preserve New Jersey Blue Acres Fund” being dropped. The fund became “dormant” because no new CBT funds would be added but there was still leftover money in there. The resolution authorized the remaining cash balance to be expended.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-006 TO APPROVE DEP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE CAPITAL AND STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS FOR FY2020.

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Mr. Kanef

Seconded by Ms. Payne

Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$34.34 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 FY2020 revenues. The resolution does not include \$1.8 million in administrative costs because the GSPT votes only on project grants. However, the administrative costs will be included in the appropriations act.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-007 TO APPROVE SADC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY AND NONPROFIT FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROJECTS FOR FY2020.

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Assistant Commissioner Bukowski
Seconded by Mr. Kanef
Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$22.25 million for Farmland Preservation County and Nonprofit Grants as recommended by and to be carried out by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC). It is funded from CBT FY2020 revenues.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-008 TO APPROVE SADC RECOMMENDATION FOR A NONPROFIT FARMLAND PRESERVATION GRANT TO NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION FOR FY2020.

Mr. Siegel explained this resolution has been prepared as a separate action to allow Chairman Romano to recuse himself while participating in the vote on the main package in Resolution #19-007.

Moved by Mr. Kanef
Seconded by Vice-Chairman Buzby
Approved 5-0

Chairman Romano explained his recusal because he was recently employed by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of an additional, single Nonprofit grant of \$98,500 to New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF). It was separated from the main project package in #19-007 so that a board member recently employed by NJCF could recuse on #19-008 while preserving his ability to vote for the main package in #19-007. It is funded from CBT 2020 revenues.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-009 TO APPROVE SADC RECOMMENDATION FOR A MUNICIPAL PLANNING INCENTIVE GRANT PROJECT COMPETITIVE GRANT FUND FOR FY2020.

Mr. Siegel explained this resolution has been prepared as a separate action to allow Vice-Chairman Buzby to recuse himself while participating in the vote on the main package in Resolution #19-007.

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Payne
Seconded by Mr. Kanef
Approved 5-0

Vice-Chairman Buzby recused because he manages a Municipal Planning Incentive Grant acquisition program in Salem County that might become eligible to receive funds from the Competitive Grant Fund which would be established under this resolution.

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$5 million for the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program to establish a Competitive Grant Fund from which any of the Municipal PIGs could draw funds. It was separated from the main project package in #19-007 so that a board member who administrates one of these Municipal PIGs could recuse on #19-009 while preserving his ability to vote for the main package in #19-007. It is funded from CBT 2020 revenues.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-010 TO APPROVE SADC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE DIRECT ACQUISITION GRANTS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROJECTS FOR FY2020.

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Assistant Commissioner Bukowski
Seconded by Ms. Payne
Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$27.9 million for the Farmland Preservation Program State Direct Acquisitions and Farmland Stewardship Grants as recommended by and to be carried out by the SADC.

The sources of funding break down as follows:

- **\$27.4 million in CBT FY2020 funds**
- **\$394,727 from the 2007 Farmland Preservation Bond Fund**
- **\$111,418 from the 2009 Farmland Preservation Bond Fund**
- **\$11,791 from leftover cash in the Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust Fund**

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-011 TO APPROVE NJHT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT GRANTS AND HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT GRANTS FOR FY2020

Chairman Romano asked for consideration of the resolution.

Moved by Ms. Payne
Seconded by Assistant Commissioner Bukowski
Approved 6-0

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of \$11.9 million for Historic Preservation Capital Level I & Capital Level II Grants plus Historic Site Management Grants as recommended by and to be carried out by the New Jersey Historic Trust. It is funded from CBT 2020 revenues.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION #19-012 TO AWARD A GRANT OF \$36,000 FOR FY2020 TO THE GEOSPATIAL LAB AT ROWAN UNIVERSITY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NJ CONSERVATION BLUEPRINT GIS DATABASE WEB SITE.

Chairman Romano announced he would recuse himself from the grant resolution.

Mr. Siegel called for a vote.

Moved by Mr. Kanef
Seconded by Ms. Payne
Approved 5-0

Chairman Romano explained his recusal because he was recently employed by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, which is an initial partner and co-funder of the New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

SIDE NOTE (NOT PART OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES): This resolution approves the appropriation of a \$36,000 grant for the Geospatial Lab from the GSPT's administrative budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Romano asked to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Buzby
Seconded by Ms. Payne

Approved unanimously 6-0 by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted



Ralph Siegel
executive director/board secretary
Oct 8, 2019