STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GREEN ACRES PROGRAM DIVISION OF PARKS AND FORESTRY

PUBLIC MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018 34 CLOVERDALE ROAD BARNEGAT, NEW JERSEY

RE: LAND SWAP
BARNEGAT AND STAFFORD TOWNSHIP/BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP
IN ACCORDANCE WITH NJSA 13:1D-51, ET SEQ.

Darlene Sillitoe, Certified Court Reporter

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12	ALSO PRESENT:
13	MARK VILLINGER, OCEAN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
L4	MICHAEL MANGUN, DIRECTOR OF OCEAN COUNTY PARKS
L _. 5	CYNTHIA CORITZ, SUPERINTENDENT, BASS RIVER FOREST
16	TIMOTHY G. HART, DIVISION DIRECTOR, CULTURAL AND
L7	HERITAGE COMMISSION
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(The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.)

MR. MORIARTY: My name is Sean Moriarty.

I'm a regulatory officer for the New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection's Green

Acres Program.

We're holding this hearing in accordance with NJSA 13:1D-51, et seq, also known as the Ogden-Rooney Statute with the County of Ocean to discuss a land swap between the two entities.

We were going to have a presentation, but there's not many people here. So I think maybe a better use of our time would be to briefly explain to you what the swap is about. And then if you have any questions or comments, we'll take them.

Also, if you have written comments, they'll be -- there's information -- we can give you our contact information. You can always submit written comments if you have any further questions.

Mark wants to give you a brief overview.

MR. VILLINGER: I'm Mark Villinger with
the Ocean County Planning Department.

Depends how you would like -- if you have any questions, you want to ask them now, or I can just go through it with you.

That map right there, right next to you, is probably the best to explain to you what we're doing. The properties -- this is Mike Mangun, the Parks Director.

This is the property outlined in orange is property under the County ownership.

Everything in green, this dark green, is Bass River State Forest property. We propose to swap what they own here outlined in green with our orange. So we would be swapping jurisdiction. We actually share a boundary here. We're swapping 270 acres for 192 acres.

This tract would become part of Bass
River. It already is surrounded by Bass River.
So it would be all under the management of Bass
River State Forest. So it's just a
jurisdictional change. It's open space for
open space. No real change of use.

It's just how each agency manages it.

It's actually better for us and better for them to make it -- they would have a parcel that's full, a complete parcel.

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We own a five-acre piece in the middle here. That's the Cedar Bridge Tavern, a historic site. That's the -- the last known land skirmish of the American Revolution was in The 192 acres that we want from the DEP would complement that five-acre site that we already own. So it would be managed as one tract, interpreted -- interpreted for the Cedar Bridge, the historic history there. Also allow for passive recreation trails to decide -there are many trails. Because it is through State Forest, it's open to the public. there is no real changes except for jurisdictional change.

The values, the way they came out. So we have 270 acres. We're giving the State to 192. The values we got last year certified our property is worth 1,272,000. The State property is worth 972,000. That is strictly because we're giving a little bit more property. If you break it down per acre, the State property is actually worth more per acre.

But we feel like, just looking at it this way, swapping jurisdiction, it's really just a management thing. It makes it easier

for us, us to be able to do things on the Cedar Bridge site that we can do.

This site also has some significant cedar -- Atlantic White Cedar stands on it.

The County does not have an Atlantic White Cedar Management Program. The State does. So the State would actually incorporate them into their management.

Does that make sense?

This is -- so for this process to exchange the land, this is the second hearing that we've had. We had one earlier in Stafford Township. The County has a requirement for one for each town that we have property in. And then the final one we'll have in two weeks in Toms River.

The one piece of property in Stafford, we're transferring this over here, is just a small 15-acre site compared to the 270. The DEP just has property in Barnegat. That's why this is their first hearing. First required hearing. And they will have a followup hearing on May 31st in Trenton.

And if you have any comments, any written comments, we have a form. Comments are

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being accepted as of June 14th. After that point, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders will be able to formally act on And then the State House Commission will act next. Probably in September at the earliest.

> MR. MORIARTY: Yes?

MR. MANGUN: Did we miss anything?

MR. GOMEZ: No. I'm still trying to find out where we are.

MR. MANGUN: You live in the Warren Grove area?

> MRS. GOMEZ: Yeah.

MR. VILLINGER: So this is the Route This is the Township boundary. This is Stafford, so Warren Grove would be kind of down here. Just off the map.

> MR. GOMEZ: Route 72 is right here.

MR. VILLINGER: This is the 72, and this is 610 Warren Grove Road here. So the property that the County gives to the State does run from Warren Grove and Route 539. County is proposing is actually located right on Cedar Bridge Road. Which is -- it's a dirt road. So that's right off of Warren Grove.

MRS. GOMEZ: Nothing is being built, 1 2 though. MR. MANGUN: No. 3 That's my next question. MR. GOMEZ: 4 5 It's all about management. MR. MANGUN: It's the management. 6 7 MR. GOMEZ: What's the future thought 8 process? Is there a plan that something could be built in the future? 9 10 MR. MANGUN: No. Have no building. only thing -- I mean, things we would look at 11 here is a lot of archeology. 12 reassembles the old Cedar Bridge Tavern 13 property essentially. Back in around 1980, the 14 former owner sold a portion of the property to 15 the New Jersey Conservation Foundation which in 16 turn transferred to the Bass River. There was 17 even some more property owned that they are 18 entitled to, and he let it go to the town for 19 So this is sort of reassembling the 20 taxes. whole Cedar Bridge property. 21 On this side is a lot of potential 22 23

archeology. We've done a lot of archeology on the site already with Monmouth University. We intend to do some more. So it would allow us

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to do a lot of stuff related to the tavern on that site. Which right now it -- it's a lot more difficult because it's part of Bass River. And there's a lot of issues with being able to do that type of stuff on State property. So it would allow us to do some research to the history of the site.

And, actually, if you go back in -over -- about 250 years ago, this site is
significant because it was on a lot of maps, on
the East Coast maps and regional maps, when
other areas of New Jersey were not even
identified on the maps. This -- this spot was.
So there's a lot of history here and a lot of
significance to it, so.

MR. MORIARTY: I mean, I think -- yeah.

At its core, like they indicated right now,

both -- all the properties in question are

restricted for use as parkland, and they will

remain restricted for use of parkland after

this swap. Nothing will change. Just the

ownership. And it gives the County an

opportunity to own that site and to investigate

and use it to bring about more awareness of the

historical significance of that area. So as

far as the passive uses, it will be the same. 1 MR. VILLINGER: Yeah. And for the site 2 that we're proposing to transfer that the State 3 currently owns, the County every year fills out 4 a special --5 MS. CORITZ: Use permit. 6 7 MR. VILLINGER: -- special use permit 8 for special use, parking. So this just gets rid of some of that. 9 10 MR. MANGUN: A lot of bureaucracy on both sides. 11 MR. VILLINGER: It's really, you know, 12 no change of use or purpose, really. It's just 13 for better management. 14 MR. GOMEZ: I think that was our 15 16 concern. MR. MANGUN: That it would be developed. 17 For sure. A lot of people MR. GOMEZ: 18 getting away from Toms River issue. 19 getting really crowded. That's the reason we 20 moved out here. So seeing that --21 We'd actually be looking to 22 MR. MANGUN: preserve more land, whether it's us or the 23 Long-term goals. 24 State. We're literally right back 25 MR. GOMEZ:

behind Lucille's.

MR. VILLINGER: Oh.

MR. MANGUN: Okay.

MR. GOMEZ: We drive through it all the time.

MR. MANGUN: You're one of the closest neighbors.

MR. GOMEZ: Yeah.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ VILLINGER: Very few houses out there.

MR. GOMEZ: Other than that, I'm fine. You guys, that was our main thing.

MR. MORIARTY: If for any reason, if after you leave if you have more questions, you can always submit them to us. The full report that the County and State prepare together on the transactions are available on the Public Notice section of the Department of Environmental Protection website, so you can look there.

MR. HART: Have you had a chance to come out and see the work on the tavern? It's being renovated. It be done this fall.

MRS. GOMEZ: Awesome.

MR. MANGUN: Appreciate you coming out.

MR. MANGUN: Yeah. I feel 1 For sure. bad holding you guys up. 2 The goal is for people 3 MR. MORIARTY: who have concerns for people to be able to have 4 questions answered. So that's why we're here, 5 and that's why we came. 6 7 MS. CORITZ: How did you guys hear about the meeting? 8 MRS. GOMEZ: We saw one of the signs. 9 MR. MORIARTY: So the signs worked. 10 So you guys are good? 11 MR. GOMEZ: We are good. 12 Then we'll close the MR. MORIARTY: 13 meeting. 14 (The Public Meeting was adjourned at 15 16 7:09 p.m.) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

CERTIFICATE

I, DARLENE SILLITOE, a Certified Court
Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey,
certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
transcript of the proceedings.

I further certify that I am neither attorney, of counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action; further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case; nor am I financially interested in the action.

TO TEA

DARLENE SILLITOE, CCR License No 30XI0102300

Dated: May 25, 2018
My Notary Commission Expires
December 9, 2019
ID No 50006932

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