

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program and Division of Parks and Forestry**

and the New Jersey State House Commission

**Notice of Public Hearings on Proposed Exchange of Property with the County of Ocean
(Barnegat Township and Stafford Township, Ocean County)**

Take Notice that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 13:1D-51 through -58, the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP"), Green Acres Program, will hold two public hearings to seek comments on a proposed exchange of property with the County of Ocean ("County") in Barnegat and Stafford Townships, Ocean County. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:31-1.1, the second public hearing will be conducted jointly with the State House Commission.

The County and the NJDEP propose to exchange approximately 269 acres of land owned by the County for approximately 192 acres of land owned by the NJDEP. The County's general objective for the proposed land exchange is to expand its holdings around the historic Cedar Bridge Tavern Site in Barnegat Township. The NJDEP's general objectives are to fill gaps in State ownership in Barnegat and Stafford Townships and create a larger contiguous parcel for administration as part of the State park system. All the lands involved in the proposed exchange are undeveloped public parkland, and will remain as public parkland after the exchange.

The NJDEP properties proposed to be conveyed to the County are designated for tax purposes as Block 45, Lot 1, Block 51, Lot 4.01, and Block 52, Lot 6.05 in Barnegat Township, Ocean County. The street addresses for these properties are 177 Old Halfway Road in Barnegat Township (for Block 45, Lot 1), 221 Old Cedar Bridge-Barnegat Road in Barnegat Township (for Block 52, Lot 6.05), and 50 Warren Grove Road in Barnegat Township (for Block 51, Lot 4.01). These lots are currently managed by the Division of Parks and Forestry as part of Bass River State Forest.

The County properties proposed to be conveyed to the NJDEP are: Block 50, Lots 5 and 9 and Block 51, Lot 10 in Barnegat Township, Ocean County (totaling 253.87 acres) and Block 2, Lot 6 in Stafford Township, Ocean County (15.62 acres.) The street addresses for these properties are 50 Route 539 in Barnegat Township (for Block 51, Lot 10), 89 Route 539 in Barnegat Township (for Block 50, Lot 5), 109A Yellow Dam Road in Barnegat Township (for Block 50, Lot 9) and Cedar Bridge Road at Route 539 in Stafford Township (for Block 2, Lot 6.) These lots are known locally as the Wading River East Branch property.

If the proposed exchange is completed, all properties will remain as open space and will be available for public use. The lands to be conveyed by the NJDEP to the County will be subject to a conservation easement and/or Green Acres restrictions. The lands to be conveyed by the

County to the NJDEP will be incorporated into Bass River State Forest for use in accordance with the NJDEP's park management regulations.

A copy of a report analyzing the proposed exchange, including maps and a more detailed description of the proposal, is available online at www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/notices.html.

At the conclusion of the public hearing process, the approval of the NJDEP Commissioner and the State House Commission will be needed for the proposed exchange. Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 13:1D-52*, such approval cannot occur before September 2018.

The **first public hearing** on the proposed exchange will be conducted by the NJDEP and will be held on:

May 16, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the

Cloverdale County Park, Education Center
34 Cloverdale Road
Barnegat, NJ 08005
(609) 607-1861

The hearing record for the first public hearing will close on May 30, 2018. Interested persons may obtain information from Sean Moriarty in the Green Acres Program and may submit written comments to Mr. Moriarty until the close of business on May 30, 2018.

The **second public hearing** will be conducted jointly by the NJDEP and the State House Commission and will be held on:

May 31, 2018 at 3:30 PM at the

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
501 East State Street
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 984-0500

The hearing record for the second public hearing will close on June 14, 2018. Interested persons may obtain information from Sean Moriarty in the Green Acres Program and may submit written comments to Mr. Moriarty until the close of business on June 14, 2018.

Persons wishing to make oral presentations at either of the public hearings are asked to bring a written copy of their comments to the hearing for use by the NJDEP and the State House

Commission. The NJDEP will provide copies of all written comments to the State House Commission.

For further information on the proposal, please contact:

Sean Moriarty, Esq., Regulatory Officer
Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program
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(609) 984-0500
Sean.Moriarty@dep.nj.gov


For the NJDEP:

DATE: 3/23/18


Catherine R. McCabe, Acting Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection

For the State House Commission (as to the second public hearing only):

DATE: 3/22/18


Robert J. Shaughnessy, Jr.
Secretary