

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 17, 2010
12:00 PM**

Office of Natural Lands Management, Trenton, New Jersey

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:12 PM and roll was taken. A quorum of trustees was present. At least one of the trustees was a state governmental representative. The Open Public Meetings Act notice was read as follows: Notice of the date, time, location and agenda, to the extent known, was forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation, and provided to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

In attendance were:

Michael Catania, Chairperson	Thomas Gilmore, Trustee
James Hall, Vice Chairperson	Judeth Yeany, Trustee
Theresa Lettman, Trustee/Secretary- Treasurer	John Sacco for Ernest Hahn, Trustee
Adrienne Kreipke for the State Treasurer, Trustee	Jean Reilly, DAG, Trust Counsel
Emile DeVito, Trustee	Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
	Martin Rapp, Trust Staff
	Cari Wild, Trust Staff

Absent were:

State House Commission representative (not appointed)
Amy Cradic, for the Commissioner of DEP, Trustee
Steve Eisenhauer, Trustee

General Public Comment: None

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Statements of Financial Position for the quarters ending March 31 and June 30, 2010. Ms. Kreipke motioned to approve the Statements of Financial Position, Mr. Hall seconded the motion, and the statements were approved.

The **March 25, 2010 minutes** were reviewed. Ms. Kreipke requested an amendment to the Financial Report discussion to add a new sentence before the last sentence of that paragraph as follows: "After further discussion, Mr. Catania concurred that the Trust would consider whether any of the staff's time could be fairly considered as exclusively of benefit to the Trust." Mr. Hall motioned to approve the minutes, as amended. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with Mr. Sacco abstaining.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Catania provided the Board with a brief report regarding the stakeholder meeting that Trust staff, Mr. DeVito and he had conducted on June 23, 2010 regarding **Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County**. Mr. Catania indicated that the discussion points of the stakeholder meeting were to: (1) explain the status of the process including the demolition and remediation,

(2) explain the limitations of the conservation easement on active recreation at the island through its prohibitions on development such as marinas, golf courses, restaurants and ball fields, and (3) solicit suggestions and comments regarding educational programming and passive recreational activities, including the location and design of the cultural and education center, hiking trails, observation platforms, etc. After each stakeholder had had an opportunity to present his or her suggestions, there was a clear consensus that the cultural and education center should be located on the mainland, if possible. Current documents, such as the conservation easement, that call for the center to be located on the island would require CITGO's approval and amendment. The stakeholders seem to envision a modest center on the mainland with managed access to the island, which would then have trails, overlooks and interpretive displays regarding the island's historical, cultural and ecological attributes with perhaps a pavilion to serve as a gathering point. At the end of the stakeholder meeting, the Trust indicated that it would proceed to work on a conceptual vision plan that we would then share with them. Mr. Catania also advised the Board of the support of the William Penn Foundation in co-hosting the stakeholder meeting and perhaps in future activities such as the design and construction of the center. Ms. Kreipke questioned whether staff had the necessary experience to draft a request for proposal (RFP) for design and whether Treasury's procurement process would be followed. She expressed concern that the Division of Property Management and Construction's process could be complicated and time-consuming. Mr. Catania responded that Trust staff had the necessary experience and that Treasury's procurement process would be followed at the point when the RFP was issued but that was probably very far into the future. Mr. Catania then inquired as to the Board's interest in having staff draft an RFP for use in the near future for educational programming given the Trust's immediate right under the conservation easement to conduct environmental educational programs on the island for junior or senior high school age students or adults, for approximately twelve calendar days per year. There was general consensus by the Board that staff should draft an RFP for the Board's review and approval that would solicit proposals involving: a survey of local schools to determine interest in Petty's Island programming and type; implementation of such programming with local schools; and adult programming to be open to the public.

The Board was advised of the **Moorestown-Tarantino/GA/Moorestown Acquisition Fund** expenditure as required by the Board's March 6, 1992 resolution.

New Business:

The Board considered the **Wallkill River Project Area Amendment, Franklin Borough, Ogdensburg Borough and Sparta Township, Sussex County**. Mr. Gilmore motioned to approve the Wallkill River Project Area on the condition that lands within the Project Area that would present management concerns, such as structures, improvements or contamination or that would require the expenditure of Trust funds, would be brought to the Board for specific approval before acquisition. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion and the offer was accepted with Ms. Yeany and Mr. Sacco abstaining.

The Board began to consider the **Sooy-Mach/GA, Land Management Assignment Offer in Woodland Township, Burlington County**. Mr. Catania recused himself from this matter because the property may be acquired, in part, with Pinelands Conservation Funds, which he administers on behalf of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. Mr. DeVito indicated that he may have to recuse himself because the New Jersey Conservation Foundation is an acquisition partner on this project. Ms. Yeany and Mr. Sacco also indicated that they would have to recuse themselves based on an informal 2002 opinion from the Executive Commission on Ethical

Standards that Trust members who are employed by the Green Acres Program must recuse themselves from any matters involving Green Acres acquisitions notwithstanding the lack of any direct or indirect personal financial interest that might reasonably be expected to impair their objectivity or independence of judgment in the approval of such land management assignments. Based on lack of a quorum, Ms. Lettman motioned to table this Land Management Assignment Offer until the next meeting and to have Mr. Hall handle this matter at that time. Mr. Hall seconded the motion, and the motion to table this matter was approved.

The **2009 Trust Annual Report** was discussed. The report was submitted in printed format to the Governor and New Jersey Legislature. It is also posted on the Trust's website: www.njnlt.org. It was discussed that future submissions should be made electronically in order to reduce cost and paper. Although not yet enacted, there is pending legislation that requires, when feasible, any State department or agency required by law to submit a periodic report to the Governor, the Legislature or certain legislative officials to submit that report electronically to those persons or entities. In addition, the bill provides that a notice of the availability of such a report will be transmitted electronically to the State Librarian.

Mr. Catania advised that the next Board meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2010.

Mr. Rapp and Mr. Cartica advised the Board regarding the status of a year-long biodiversity inventory begun in July by a subcontractor at the Bear Creek Preserve.

Mr. DeVito advised the Board that he and Ms. Lettman had recently observed a 20 percent increase in *Stylisma pickeringii* var. *pickeringii* (Pickering's morning-glory) at the Crossley Preserve. Mr. DeVito further advised that we have not yet received a response from Mt. Cuba to the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) sent to them last spring but that the plants are still growing and the New Jersey Partnerships for Plant Conservation has made progress on the development of *ex situ* conservation principles.

Mr. Gilmore motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Sacco seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Lettman
Secretary/Treasurer