

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 14, 2018
12:00 PM**

Office of Natural Lands Management, Trenton, New Jersey

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:08 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. It was also noted that such notice was provided on the Trust's website in compliance with the Act requiring State, regional, and local authorities, boards, and commissions to establish a website providing specific information to facilitate transparency in government.

In attendance were:

Michael Catania, Chairperson

James Hall, Vice Chairperson

Theresa Lettman, Trustee/Secretary-
Treasurer

Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee

Larry Torok, DEP Trustee

Emile DeVito, Trustee

Steve Eisenhauer, Trustee

Adrienne Kreipke, alternate for Ray

Bukowski, Trustee representative for the
DEP Commissioner

Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director

Martin Rapp, Trust Staff

Cari Wild, Trust Staff

Absent were:

State House Commission representative (not appointed)

Hannah Good, Trustee representative for the State Treasurer

Thomas Gilmore, Trustee

Guests:

Amanda Dey, NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Program

David Wheeler, Conserve Wildlife Foundation

General Public Comment:

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarters ending March 31, 2018 and June 30, 2018. Ms. Kreipke motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Ms. Yeany seconded the motion and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

The **March 16, 2018 minutes** were reviewed. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Catania and Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report** which included an update on the termination of Crowley's operations on April 30, 2018. Crowley is in the process of removing the 50-acre asphalt parking lot and restoring it to native vegetation. The Board was advised that the documentary *500 Acres of Controversy: Saving Petty's Island* was screened at various locations throughout the summer. An audio history tour via TravelStorys app is available along the trail on the island. There will also be a water trail option provided in the next couple of months. We have received the rough cut of the documentary *Petty's Island: A Journey Back to Nature* about the island's many natural resources. Finally, the Trust will be participating in the Alliance for Watershed Education's (AWE) third annual River Days Festival along the Camden waterfront promenade on September 15th and is hosting four separate River Days events at Petty's Islands during the month-long event.

New Business:

Ms. Dey and Mr. Wheeler presented the **Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project 2019 Budget Request for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation (CWF) and the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP)**. Ms. Wild advised the Board that the proposed 2019 shorebird budget totals \$41,000 which includes \$31,000 for CWF and \$10,000 for ENSP. In 2017, \$49,500 was budgeted. As of today, \$26,614 remains in the fund and, after final reimbursement for remaining 2018 expenses (\$9,854), the Trust's Shorebird Fund will be left with \$16,760. However, Ms. Dey and Mr. Wheeler may not seek reimbursement of remaining 2018 expenses and expect reimbursement of at least \$35,000 to the shorebird fund through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant, bringing the expected balance to \$51,760.

Ms. Dey indicated that the peak count of the stopover population of red knots on Delaware Bay during 2018 increased from approximately 17,969 to 32,930. Mean horseshoe crab egg density increased from 2,796 eggs/m² in 2017 to 14,000 eggs/m² in 2018 (preliminary findings) and the number of surface eggs increased through the Delaware Bay stopover period creating good foraging conditions for red knot and other shorebirds.

Mr. Catania requested that, as with prior budgets, the 2019 shorebird budget should be approved with a rider authorizing a reallocation of expenses between categories subject to a limitation of the total budgeted amount. He also requested that the Board authorize a \$31,000 upfront payment to CWF to fund Delaware shorebird work to be done in May and June 2019 with receipts for such work to be provided later. However, the Board's budget approval and authorization of the \$31,000 upfront payment is subject to available funds in the shorebird account. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve the 2019 budget with the reallocation rider and upfront \$31,000 payment subject to available funds. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and the 2019 shorebird budget was unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

The Board considered the proposed **Mackenzie's Bog Preserve-The Nature Conservancy Land Donation Offer in Andover Township and Newton Town, Sussex County**. Mr. DeVito

motioned to approve this land donation offer. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and the offer was approved by a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Yeany recused herself from the matter because her office is involved in approving the transfer.

The Board considered the proposed **Bennett Bogs Preserve-New Jersey Audubon Society Land Donation Offer in Lower Township, Cape May County**. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve this land donation offer. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the offer was unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

The Board considered the proposed **Hagedorn Preserve-Clemson/GA Land Management Assignment Offer in Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County**. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve this land management assignment. Ms. Lettman seconded the motion and the land management assignment was approved by a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Yeany recused herself from the matter based on the advice from the NJ Attorney General's Office that her vote may present an appearance of conflict notwithstanding that she has no personal or financial stake in Trust management assignments.

The Board considered the proposed **Clarks Landing Preserve-Lakew & Teferra/GA Land Management Assignment Offer in Galloway Township, Atlantic County**. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve this land management assignment. Ms. Lettman seconded the motion and the land management assignment was approved by a vote of 7 to 0. Ms. Yeany recused herself from the matter based on the advice from the NJ Attorney General's Office that her vote may present an appearance of conflict notwithstanding that she has no personal or financial stake in Trust management assignments.

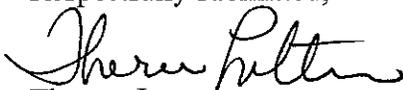
The Board discussed potential activities and events to commemorate the Trust's 50th Anniversary in 2019.

- Trust website will be updated so that the home page highlights the 50th Anniversary and may include a timeline of accomplishments in Trust's first 50 years.
- The June meeting to be hosted at a Trust preserve where former trustees and others are invited. Maybe a 50th Anniversary banner for this meeting and other Trust events?
- Press releases/events regarding the Trust's anniversary and maybe some big Trust announcements?

The remaining 2018 Board meeting date is December 7th, 2018

Ms. Kreipke motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Hall seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM by a unanimous vote of 8 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,


Theresa Lettman
Secretary/Treasurer