

Phil Murphy  
Governor

Tahesha Way  
Lt. Governor

TRUSTEES  
Alex Rivera  
Chair  
Daniel Harris  
Vice Chair

Elizabeth Maher Muoio, State Treasurer  
Dept. of the Treasury  
Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner Dept.  
of Environmental Protection  
Joe Atchinson III, Acting Secretary, Dept.  
of Agriculture

## Garden State Preservation Trust



Saving New Jersey's Open Spaces, Historic Places and Farmland

140 East Front Street  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 750  
Trenton NJ 08625  
609-984-4600

---

### CERTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN OF GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST

I, Alex Rivera, certify that the attached copy of the minutes of the Garden State Preservation Trust is a true and correct copy of the substantial minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting of the Trust.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Rivera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Rivera  
Chair

**Garden State Preservation Trust**  
**January 11, 2024 Substantive Meeting Minutes**  
**Teleconference 10:00am**

Alex Rivera, Chair of the Garden State Preservation Trust called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

Alex Rivera read a statement that advance notice of at least 48 hours of the date, time, agenda summary and toll Free teleconference number with access code of this public conference call meeting of the Garden State Preservation Trust for Wednesday, January 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM was given and distributed in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act and as amended by PL 2020 Chapter 11 to State House Press Corps, specifically The Associated Press, Bloomberg News, New Jersey spotlight, New Jersey public media and Jade Advanced media and News 12 New Jersey and to the Office of Legislative Services and to the Office of the New Jersey Secretary of State for the Notification and to be posted, published and broadcast.

Chair Alex Rivera called the roll. Members in attendance on the call were: Ryan Feeney (for Treasurer Elizabeth Muoio), Glenn Ceponis (for DCA Acting Commissioner Jacquelyn Suarez), Daniel Harris (public member), Susan Payne (for Acting Agriculture Secretary Joe Atchinson III), Martha Sapp (for DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette), Greg Romano (public member.) Alex Romano announced that we have a quorum. Other attendees on the call were: Danielle Currie (Deputy Director of Communications, Department of the Treasury), Jeffrey Padgett (Office of Attorney General), Anita Bliss and Robert Gilmartin (Department of the Treasury.)

The Executive Director position is vacant and the eighth and ninth positions on the board are vacant.

**Opening Remarks**

Alex Rivera informed board members that a previous version of the agenda had been sent and included a no cost extension for Rowan Universities grant to support the conservation blueprint, and that was removed from the agenda. The reason it was removed is because we determined that I could just grant the no cost extension. Alex also wanted to thank John's team for the New Jersey Conservation Blueprint meeting that occurred late last year.

**Approval Review of Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2023 Board Meeting**

Alex Rivera asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting.  
Moved by Susan Payne  
Second by Martha Sapp  
Approved 7-0

**Approval / Review of Executive Session Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2023 Board Meeting.**

Alex Rivera asked for a motion for the approval of the executive session minutes of the May 25, 2023 meeting.

Moved by Dan Harris

Second by Susan Payne

Approved 7-0

**Motion to enter into closed session**

Moved by Dan Harris

Second by Susan Payne

Approved 7-0

**Closed session minutes are in a separate attachment**

**Discussion / Vote (Resolution 24-001) for Executive Director Position.**

Alex Rivera stated that on behalf of the hiring committee, the board would move to hire a candidate for the position of Garden State Preservation Trust Executive Director. Alex Rivera nominated Jeffrey Everett for the position of Executive Director.

Moved by Dan Harris

Second by Susan Payne

Approved 6-0

Note: Greg Romano was unable to cast vote due to technical issues. Jeffrey Padgett (AG's office) advised Chair Alex Rivera that he had a quorum and could proceed with the vote.

Chair Alex Rivera confirmed to the board that Jeffrey Everett is named as Executive Director of the Garden State Preservation Trust with an effective date pending final approval at a salary discussed during executive session.

**Board Member Comment**

Glenn Ceponis introduced himself to the board and informed the board that he is the new Executive Director of the historic trust, having taken over Dorothy Guzzo's position due to her recent retirement and is looking forward to working with the trust as the new representative of the DCA Commissioner. Greg Romano thanked Alex Rivera for stepping up and taking charge.

**Public Comment**

No public comments

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Susan Payne

Second by Martha Sapp

Approved 7-0