

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.52(c)3, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission will conduct a public hearing on a proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Pinelands Commission and Pemberton Township. Comments are being sought concerning the provisions of this Agreement.

The proposed MOA would authorize Pemberton Township to improve a portion of the existing walking trail located along the perimeter of Pemberton Lake. The proposed improvements are intended to make the trail more accessible for individuals with ambulatory challenges by making it firm, flat and stable, with no more than a 5% grade, throughout its length.

The proposed improvements involve the placement of gravel and two wooden boardwalks within the trail's existing boundaries. Given that portions of the trail to be improved are located within wetlands and wetland buffers, the Commission's approval of a deviation from the wetlands protection standards of the CMP is required to permit the project to proceed.

In order to offset the wetlands impacts resulting from the proposed trail improvements and ensure an equivalent level of protection to Pinelands resources, the Township proposes to: 1) revegetate two areas, one at each of the trailheads, with native pinelands vegetation; 2) install a rain garden adjacent to the Magnolia Road parking area; and 3) install gates at both ends of the improved trail and wooden post and beam barriers at points where the trail runs near the Pemberton Bypass, to prohibit access to the trail by offroad vehicles.

The public hearing will be conducted remotely and broadcast live on the Commission's YouTube channel on the following date and time:

DATE: Wednesday, December 13, 2023
TIME: 2:00 p.m.

To view the hearing live, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9vaw4_isS8

The public may provide comment during the hearing by calling **929-205-6099** and using **Meeting ID: 899 9943 5854**

The public may also submit written comment by email (preferred), regular mail, or facsimile no later than Monday, December 18, 2023, to:

Land Use Programs Office
Pinelands Commission
PO Box 359
New Lisbon, NJ 08064
Facsimile: (609) 894-7330
Email: planning@pinelands.nj.gov or through the Commission's website at <https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/contact/public.shtml>

A draft of the proposed MOA is available on the Commission's website at

www.nj.gov/pinelands or upon request by contacting the Pinelands Commission at planning@pinelands.nj.gov.

Following the public hearing, the Executive Director will submit a report and formal recommendation regarding the proposed MOA amendment to the Pinelands Commission for its consideration.