



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

PRESS RELEASE

January 10, 2025

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For Immediate Release:

Dr. Deborah Buzby-Cope, former Mayor and lifelong resident of Bass River Township, sworn in as New Member of the NJ Pinelands Commission

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 10, 2025 – Dr. Deborah Buzby-Cope, a former Mayor and lifelong resident of Bass River Township, was sworn in as a member of the Pinelands Commission’s 15-member board during the agency’s meeting this morning.

“I am truly honored to be appointed to the Pinelands Commission, and I would like to thank Governor Murphy for his confidence in me,” Dr. Buzby-Cope said. “I have enjoyed helping constituents through the years navigate through the process in order for them to get their certificates of filing (from the Commission). The process has been very educational and now I will be looking at it from another role. I look forward to working with the other Commissioners and staff in this new chapter in my life.”

Dr. Buzby-Cope was appointed as a gubernatorial representative on the Commission in December 2024. She filled the seat that became vacant when Davon McCurry resigned from the Commission on January 30, 2023.

Dr. Buzby-Cope served as the Mayor of Bass River Township from May 2008 - May 2024, as the Township’s Deputy Mayor from May 2004 – May 2008 and as a Township Commissioner from May 2000 – May 2004. Dr. Buzby-Cope holds a Doctor of Chiropractic from Life University and a Bachelor of Science from the University of the State of New York – Regents College, along with certifications from Rutgers University, the International Association of Veterinarian Practitioners, American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, and education as a Veterinarian Assistant. She has worked as a chiropractor at Buzby Chiropractic since 1995, and she has served on the Pinelands Municipal Council, Tuckerton Seaport Board of Directors, the National Foundation of Women Legislators, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, and the American Veterinarian Chiropractic Association’s Board of Directors. Dr. Buzby-Cope also owns and operates a horse farm.

“We look forward to working with Deb, who brings a wealth of experience as a mayor of a Pinelands town and as a member of the Pinelands Municipal Council,” said Pinelands Commission Executive Director Susan R. Grogan.

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency that is charged with protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the 938,000-acre state Pinelands Area, which includes parts or all of 53 municipalities in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.

The Commission’s 15-member board consists of seven members who are appointed by the New Jersey Governor, one member appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties, and one member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Commission members are unpaid volunteers who dedicate

countless hours of their time and expertise while serving on the Commission.

***** ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** Please contact Paul Leakan at Paul.Leakan@pinelands.nj.gov to receive a .jpeg of the photo below.



Above: Deborah Buzby-Cope took the oath of office as a member of the Pinelands Commission during the agency's meeting this morning. DAG Jason T. Stypinski administered the oath. Photo/Paul Leakan

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