

**MINUTES** of a Regular Meeting of the **SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION** held October 21, 2021 at 3:30 P.M. at Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Caliguire.

This is a Regular Meeting of the Somerset County Park Commission, and adequate advance notice of this meeting has been provided by publication in The Courier News on December 26, 2020 and the Star Ledger on December 29, 2020. Notice was also posted on the bulletin board at the entrance in the Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters and filed with the Somerset County Clerk, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

Pursuant to recently issued emergency regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services (codified as N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 through 1.7) the Somerset County Park Commission is now advising that its specifically aforementioned meetings shall be held remotely and virtually via the Zoom video conferencing platform for Park Commissioners in conjunction with in-person meeting for members of the public. Adequate advance notice of a remote public meeting in conjunction with in-person meeting was advertised in The Courier News on October 9, 2020 and the Star Ledger on October 12, 2020. Notice was also posted on the main public entrance at Somerset County Park Commission Headquarters.

Park Commission Counsel, Eric Bernstein added that considering COVID-19 mandates, this meeting was made open to the public and social distancing measures were in place. Park Commission Headquarters was unlocked and "Building Closed" signs were removed from the entryway.

President Caliguire called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

PRESENT\*

Mark Caliguire  
Bill Foelsch  
Helen Haines  
DJ Hunsinger  
Joe Kempe

ABSENT

Doug Ludwig  
Ron Jordan  
Paul Drake  
County Commissioner Liaison

Other staff members present were:

Geoffrey Soriano, Secretary-Director  
Janine Erickson, Executive Assistant

Dina Trunzo, Admin, Leisure and  
Community Services  
Donna Umgelter, Admin, HR

\*Participated via video conference. In light of the current COVID-19 mandates, Commissioners, Counsel, and Senior Management staff were asked to participate in this meeting remotely.

Also in attendance via video conference: Eric Bernstein, Legal Counsel; Brandon Lodics, Connor Strong; and Greg D’Orazio, Assured Partners.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Robin Gehringer of Basking Ridge, NJ again requested that consideration be given to hiring previous Lord Stirling Stable Supervisor, Marnie Maciborski as a part time instructor/trainer and also asked when the report of the Lord Stirling Stable Advisory Committee will be made public. Director Soriano stated that he will be convening a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee to discuss outside instructors at the Stable. President Caliguire stated that the report from the Advisory Group is still being analyzed and it is not final.

Nancy Williams of Basking Ridge, NJ requested that trails at the Stable remain dedicated to horse riding only.

Claudia Mott, Millington, NJ inquired about the meeting to re-open the Stable.

Stephan Yelenik of Peapack Gladstone, NJ requested a meeting with Director Soriano and the Property Management Manager to discuss the mowing of the view shed at Natirar Park.

The following members of the public came to speak to request that the Commissioners consider the acceptance of the offer to erect a Peace and Non-Violence Memorial at Colonial Park:

John Tibbs, Franklin Twp, NJ  
Clinton Fudge Jr., Franklin Twp, NJ  
Rajiv Prasad, Franklin Twp, NJ  
Chandrakant P. Desai, Franklin Twp., NJ  
Jash Brahmhatt Franklin Twp., NJ  
Dev Karlehar, Franklin Twp., NJ  
Jayshee Brahmhatt, Franklin Twp., NJ  
Ram Anbarasan, Franklin Twp., NJ

LD-17 Assemblyman, Joseph Danielsen spoke in support of the Peace and Non-Violence Memorial on behalf of his constituents. Assemblyman Danielson also read a letter of support from Franklin Township Councilwoman At-Large, Kimberly Francois.

Following comments by the above members of the public, President Caliguire expressly stated that the role of the Park Commission is to be stewards of Open Space, parks, and

recreational opportunities and that the decision has been made to deny the request for the installation of the Peace and Non-Violence Memorial at Colonial Park. Despite having the utmost respect for the icons being proposed, it is not the role of the Commission to erect significant statues on behalf of third parties. President Caliguire thanked all who came to speak and appreciated all that was done to present the proposal.

### **PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS**

The following employees earned service awards during the month of October:

Receiving Thirty-Year Service Award:

~ Gary Freuler, Recreation Maintenance

Receiving Twenty-Year Service Award:

~ Sarah Weber – Rangers

The presentation of Service Awards has been postponed due to virtual meetings.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

President Caliguire called for the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 16, 2021. Moved by Commissioner Hunsinger; seconded by Commissioner McCallen. YEAS: Commissioners Foelsch, Haines, Hunsinger, Kempe, McCallen, Paluck, and President Caliguire. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Jordan and Ludwig.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

The following resolutions were moved by Commissioner Foelsch; seconded by Commissioner McCallen. YEAS: Commissioners Foelsch, Haines, Hunsinger, Kempe, McCallen, Paluck, and President Caliguire. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Jordan and Ludwig.

### **Resolution R21-197 – Payment of Claims**

Resolution authorizes payment of claims in the amount of \$2,344,498.51 comprised of Claims in the amount of \$870,958.05, Other Expenses in the amount of \$224,635.33, and Salaries and Wages in the amount of \$1,248,905.13 for the period of September 10, 2021 through October 21, 2021.

### **Resolution R21-198 – Refund of Recreation Fees**

Resolution authorizes refund of recreation fees.

### **Resolution R21-199 – Payment of Confirming Orders**

Resolution authorizes the payment of confirming orders totaling \$8,534.08.

### **Resolution R21-200 – Authorizing Additional Funding for Previously Awarded Contracts (Leisure Services)**

Resolution authorizes additional funds for previously awarded contracts.

### **Resolution R21-201 – Authorizing Additional Funding for Previously Awarded Contracts (Golf)**

Resolution authorizes additional funds for previously awarded contracts.

**Resolution R21-202 – Authorizing Additional Funding for Previously Awarded Contracts (Administration)**

Resolution authorizes additional funds for previously awarded contracts.

**Resolution R21-203 – Authorizing Additional Funding for Previously Awarded Contracts (Park Operations)**

Resolution authorizes additional funds for previously awarded contracts.

**Resolution R21-204 – Amending and Cancelling Certification of Funds for Previously Awarded Contracts**

Resolution cancels or amends certification of funds for previously awarded contracts.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Soriano submitted a report for the month of October 2021 which provided an explanation for the need of reviewing and revising the Somerset County Park Commission Rules and Regulations.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Email received from David Becker from Ross Farm with questions regarding holding various events at the Farm. *This request will be reviewed by the Leisure Services Committee.*
2. Email received from Jocelyn Spelker patron of Lord Stirling Stable requesting permission to bring her own (outside) horse trainer to the Stable periodically for assistance with her training. *This request will be reviewed by the Leisure Services Committee.*
3. Emails received from Lord Stirling Stable patrons, Dorothea Schlosser, Claudia Mott, and Sandra McConekey expressing their concern with the current state of Lord Stirling Stable and requesting the Commission allow Marnie Maciborski, who recently resigned, permission to return to provide lessons at the Stable on a part-time basis. *This request is already being reviewed by the Leisure Services Committee.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTIONS**

The following resolutions were moved by Commissioner Hunsinger; seconded by Commissioner Foelsch. YEAS: Commissioners Foelsch, Haines, Hunsinger, Kempe, McCallen, Paluck, and President Caliguire. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Jordan and Ludwig.

**Resolution R21-205 – Granting Permission to Farm Licensee to Apply for a Permit to Kill Wild Deer on County-Owned Parkland (Trezza Parcel)**

Resolution grants permission to Middlebush Farm to apply for a permit to kill wild deer on Trezza Parcel.

**Resolution R21-206 – Accepting the Offer of the Sourlands Conservancy to Donate Native Trees and Shrub and the People Power to Install Same at the Sourland Mountain Preserve**

Resolution accepts offer from Sourlands Conservancy to donate and install native trees and shrubs at the Sourland Mountain Preserve.

**Resolution R21-207 – Awarding Second Year of Two-Year Contract for Animal Feed and Supplements**

Resolution awards second year contract effective November 1, 2021 to Frank Carrajat, dba Middle Valley Farms for Option A: Hay and Bohonyi Corporation for Option B: Grain and Option C: Supplements with costs not to exceed \$13,200.00.

**Resolution R21-208 – Awarding Second Year of Two-Year Contract for Tree Pruning and Removal Services**

Resolution awards contract to Predator Tree Service (Primary) and Rich's Tree Service (secondary) with costs not to exceed \$2,000.00.

**Resolution R21-209 – Authorizing use of County Contract for the Purchase of Traffic Control Signs, Supports, Hardware & Safety Devices**

Resolution authorizes purchases from Garden State Highway Products.

**Resolution R21-210 – Authorizing use of County Contract for the Purchase of Paper and Envelopes**

Resolution authorizes purchases from WB Mason Co. and Paper Mart.

**Resolution R21-211 – Authorizing use of County Contract for the Purchase of Snow Plow, Salt Spreaders, and Hydraulics and Controls**

Resolution authorizes purchases from A&K Equipment Co. Inc, Cliffside Body Corp. Bristol-Donald Co. Inc, Creston Hydraulics, Inc., Dejana Truck & Utility Equipment Co. LLC, Tony Sanchez Ltd., and Trius Inc.

**Resolution R21-212 – Authorizing use of Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing Alliance for the Purchase of Microsoft Office 365 Subscription Licenses for Employee Workstations for the Park Commission Network**

Resolution authorizes purchase from SHI with costs not to exceed \$50,450.95.

**Resolution R21-213 - Authorizing use of Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing Alliance for the Purchase of Wisenet Q Network Cameras and WiseNet NVR**

Resolution authorizes purchase from SHI with costs not to exceed \$10,980.00.

**Resolution R21-214 – Authorizing use of Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for the Purchase of Utility Vehicles: 2022 Ford F350 (Golf Maintenance)**

Resolution authorizes purchase from DFFLM, LLC T/A Ditschman/Flemington Ford with cost not to exceed \$38,195.00.

**Resolution R21-215 – Authorizing use of Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for the Purchase of Utility Vehicles: 2022 Ford F350 (Park Maintenance)**

Resolution authorizes purchase from DFFLM, LLC T/A Ditschman/Flemington Ford with cost not to exceed \$37,298.00.

**Resolution R21-216 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Class 4-8 Trucks: Fisher Plow HD2**

Resolution authorizes purchase from A&K Equipment Co. Inc. with cost not to exceed \$12,543.00.

**Resolution R21-217 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Class 4-8 Trucks: Fisher Plow HT Series**

Resolution authorizes purchase from A&K Equipment Co. Inc. with cost not to exceed \$5,395.50.

**Resolution R21-218 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Toro Workman HDX**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$28,975.00.

**Resolution R21-219 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Sand Pro 5040**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$26,652.80.

**Resolution R21-220 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Toro Groundmaster 7210**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$29,092.00.

**Resolution R21-221 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Toro Groundmaster 5900D**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$102,05.60.

**Resolution R21-222 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Toro Large Capacity Spread/Spray**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$8,528.89.

**Resolution R21-223 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: John Deere 1600 Mower**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Deere & Company with cost not to exceed \$60,321.35.

**Resolution R21-224 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: John Deere 390 Flail Mower**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Deere & Company with cost not to exceed \$5,811.00.

**Resolution R21-225 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: John Deere Z994R ZTRAK**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Deere & Company with cost not to exceed \$14,983.02.

**Resolution R21-226 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: John Deere 2550 Triplex Mower**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Deere & Company with cost not to exceed \$39,721.22.

**Resolution R21-227 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Various (Golf Maintenance)**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$445,532.90.

**Resolution R21-228 – Authorizing Rental of Space of Therapeutic Recreation Programs**

Resolution authorizes rental of space from the ARC of Somerset County for the months of November and December 2021 at a cost of \$2,500.00 per month.

**Resolution R21-229 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Toro Turf Aerator 686**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$8,639.41.

**Resolution R21-230 – Authorizing use of Educational Services Commission of NJ for the Purchase of Grounds Equipment: Toro Groundmaster 4500D**

Resolution authorizes purchase from Storr Tractor Company with cost not to exceed \$70,157.60.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CFO's Report**

Commissioner Hunsinger, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2021.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Commissioner Haines, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2021.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

Commissioner Hunsinger, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2021.

Dina Trunzo, Administrator, Leisure and Community Services, reported that \$4,070.00 has been raised through GiveSmart for the "Rebuild the Boardwalk" campaign at the EEC. The goal is to raise \$10,000.00 for the renovations. Environmental Science Manager, Carrie Springer passed her Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification with NRPA. CPRP is the national standard for all parks and recreation professionals.

## **GOLF MANAGEMENT**

Commissioner Paluck, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2021.

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

There was no Information Management report.

## **VISITOR SERVICES**

Commissioner Haines, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for the month of September 2021.

## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

There was no Property Management report.

## **PLANNING AND LAND ACQUISITION**

Commissioner Haines, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for September 2021.

## **CAPITAL FACILITIES – CONSTRUCTION and ENGINEERING**

Commissioner McCallen, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for September 2021.

## **PARK MAINTENANCE & HORTICULTURE**

Commissioner Hunsinger, Chair of the Committee, submitted a report for September 2021.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

There was no report.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT**

There was no County Commissioner report.



**OLD BUSINESS**

Peace and Non-Violence Foundation, Inc. offer was discussed during the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Greg D’Orazio from Assured Partners and Brandon Lodics from Connor Strong made a presentation on the benefits of offering Medicare Advantage Plan to Park Commission retirees.

President Caliguire requested Commissioner Hunsinger take the lead on this proposal.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed Year-End Meeting date and time and 2022 Park Commission regular meeting schedule. The Year-End Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 30, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. A resolution will be presented at the November 19, 2021 Park Commission Meeting for the 2022 regular meeting schedule.

Seeing no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 P.M. was moved by: Commissioner Hunsinger; seconded by: Commissioner McCallen. YAYES: Commissioners Foelsch, Haines, Hunsinger, Kempe, McCallen, Paluck, and President Caliguire. NAYES: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Jordan and Ludwig.

Respectfully submitted

Geoffrey D. Soriano  
Secretary-Director

Janine Erickson  
Exectutive Assistant