

**Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund
Minutes of Advisory Committee Meeting
October 25, 2023**

Present: Alan Avery (Chair), David McKeon (Vice-Chair), William Fox, Lisa Hodgson, Jennifer Kuhn, Terry O’Leary, & John Peterson.

Also present at the meeting were: Commissioner Virginia E. Haines, Matthew Thompson (County Counsel), Geoffrey Lohmeyer (OCPR), Anthony Agliata (OCPD), Tom Thorsen (OCPD), Dan Sindoni (OCPD), Chris Palmieri (OCPD), Nicole Leaf (OCPD).

1. Call to Order

2. Oath of Office

- Mr. Thompson administered the Oath of Office for new member Jennifer Kuhn.

3. Roll Call

4. Approval of Minutes: September 27, 2023

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. McKeon and seconded by Mr. Avery to approve the September 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Kuhn abstains, rest in favor, motion carried.

5. Program Update: 29,720.61 acres

- Closings
 - #700 MCH – Altman, Berkeley Twp., 0.40 acres – Mr. Sindoni informed the Committee that we closed on another property in our Mill Creek Headwaters project area.
 - #625 Puglisi, Jackson Twp., 11.79 acres – Mr. Sindoni told the Committee that the property has a house, pole barn, and pool house that will have to be demolished. The former owner has 30-60 days in the home post-closing.
 - #648 Berkeley Nine Estates, Berkeley Twp., 33.12 acres – Mr. Sindoni informed the Committee that we closed on the Berkeley Nine piece which is adjacent to the BBT.
 - #583 NE Mall Donation, Berkeley Twp., 40.92 acres – Mr. Sindoni told the Committee that we closed on the NE Mall property which is adjacent to our 800-acre NJ Pulverizing Site.

6. New Business

- New Applications:
 - #711 Herbertsville Road, Brick Twp., 1.00 acres – Mr. Sindoni informed the Committee that this application is located on Herberstville Rd. and Maple Ave. The property is almost entirely covered in wetlands and has an assessed value of \$5,000.00. The asking price is \$300,000.00. The Committee was not favorable of the asking price due to the property being

covered in wetlands and having a low assessed value. The Committee did however authorize a site inspection.

- #712 Gale Road, Brick Twp., 0.49 acres – Mr. Sindoni told the Committee that this was another small application in Brick Township. The realtor is trying to bring together a group of lots to nominate to the program and this was the only one to come in so far. The property is adjacent to State and USFW land and the owner is asking \$169,000.00. The Committee mentioned the possibility of forwarding to the State for consideration and authorized a site inspection.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Fox made a comment that homes demolished from newly acquired Natural Lands properties should be utilized for beneficial programs. He would rather the homes be used for abused women, homeless people, etc... Ms. Leaf advised that we have some Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs here at the County that residents could use for this type of assistance. The Natural Lands Trust Fund is bound by certain rules as to what our funds can and can't be used for.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox and seconded by Ms. Hodgson to move into Closed Session at 6:25 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Fox and seconded by Mr. McKeon to move back into Open Session at 6:35 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Avery stated that in closed session two nominations were discussed. Of those items, one will have action taken.

#679 Mallard Road – Rich, Stafford Twp., 0.28 acres. A **MOTION** was made by Mr. O'Leary and seconded by Mr. Fox to recommend to the Board of Commissioners in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. Roll was called, all in favor, motion carried.

Adjournment: A **MOTION** was made by made by Mr. Fox and seconded by Ms. Hodgson to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Sindoni, Assistant Planner