

Peter Barnes Wildlife Preserve Commission

216 Amboy Avenue, Metuchen NJ 08840

Public Meeting – August 30, 2022, 7:00 pm

Commissioners: Dorothy Rasmussen, Chair; Walter Stochel, Vice Chair; Bob Diehl, Treasurer; Ken Sammond, Secretary; Charles Tomaro, Robert Seader.

Guest: Peter Fairclough

Chair Rasmussen opened the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Outstanding Expenses

Chair Rasmussen asked about outstanding expenses.

Walter Stochel stated \$40.78 for maps and jurisdictional material, \$12.40 for sending overnight payment to Najarian, \$224.51 to Voss for signs for Barnes Preserve Trail Signs to be attached to trees with aluminum nails. He stated that he will put the signs up. He also spent \$61.21 for map copies for all members of the Commission. The total is \$339.19

Chair Rasmussen stated that the current balance is \$72K.

Bob Diehl made a motion to accept the resolution

Charles Tomaro seconded

Charles Tomaro, Bob Diehl, BS, Ken Sammond, Walter Stochel and Chair Rasmussen all stated aye.

Eco-Tours

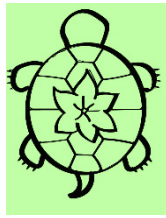
Walter Stochel updated the commissioners, stating that a cleanup is scheduled at the Barnes Preserve along the Songbird Trail on September 24, from 9-12 PM; he has also scheduled a Sunday in the Barnes Preserve for 10/9 – meeting at the corner of Talmadge and Sagamore.

Website

Chair Rasmussen asked if the Edison webmaster has begun doing webpage for the preserve.

Bob Diehl responded that we have not preceded yet. He stated also that Edison is undergoing a change in their website overall.

Chair Rasmussen stated that we need a basic website to interact with people in the community and have them interact more with us.



Other Business: Gulton, and Triple C Ranch

Chair Rasmussen stated that when the Gulton project will include a combined effort on behalf of the town, the county, and the developer.

Bob Diehl as what the situation is with the Triple C Ranch? What goes on currently and what are the plans? Robert Spiegel has been the only guy on who runs and knows what goes on there but is there someone else who would know as we cannot get answers from Mr. Spiegel.

Walter Stochel stated that Edison should offer cash support to the Edison Wetlands Association with the condition that the town gets some members on the board, and some say on the activities there. He stated that Bob Spiegel lives in a trailer on site.

Bob Diehl argued that something needs to be done to clear up the status and situation at the Triple C.

Chair Rasmussen asked what our powers are over what is done at Triple C?

Walter Stochel asked how the conditions there conform to the zoning plan and ordinances?

Charles Tomaro stated that we could send the health department to inspect the premises.

Walter Stochel also asked how 204 Tyler (across the street from the Triple C) is being redeveloped and how it is being done legally? He also stated that that Edison leases 20 acres to the Triple C for their work.

Bob Diehl noted that we have momentum going on here. He stated that the mayor of Edison loves the idea of developing the Barnes Preserve in the sense that the Triple C become an educational center in the Dismal Swamp. There is renewed interest now but we have to do a lot of upgrades. If we have the metes and bounds...and the jurisdiction, we should move on this...

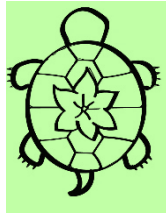
Walter Stochel stated that the Barnes Commission should be eligible for Green Acres grants and that we should talk to John Wiley to determine the status. Money should not be an issue for fixing it up. Triple C will be the nature center.

Meetings

Chair Rasmussen stated we have to meet every month moving forward since we have the money and have jurisdictional power, so we have to be more active.

Bob Diehl suggested meeting every two months due to how busy everyone is and how conflicted our schedules are.

Bob Diehl wanted confirmation as to who is on the commission? He pointed out that Rob Bencivenga is absent continuously and that South Plainfield still has to name and send a second representative.



Chair Rasmussen concluded that starting in January 2023, we should meet every other month. We will skip the September meeting and meet next in October. She stated that we should continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of every other month.

October Meeting Agenda

Chair Rasmussen stated that we should plan on the following for an October meeting: John Wiley will update us about the status of the Triple C, and that there should be a guest website designer to help us move forward with creating a website for the commission and the preserve.

Farmers Market and the Need to Complete the Master Plan

She also stated that the Commission will have a table on October 21 at the Metuchen Farmers Market.

Ken Sammond stated that we need to create cheat sheets or fliers about the Barnes Preserve and the Barnes Commission to represent who we are, what it is, and what we do. Ideally, we need a vision, Mission, Purpose, Goals, a general outline of 3-4 projects, as part of a master plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

