



Peter Barnes Wildlife Preserve Commission

216 Amboy Avenue, Metuchen NJ 08840

Meeting - January 23, 2023

Commissioners: Dorothy Rasmussen, Charles Tomaro, Robert Spiegel, Tom Walsh, Bob Diehl, Walter Stochel, Ken Sammond. John Wiley, legal counsel.

Guest: Peter Fairclough

Dorothy Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and introduced Tom Walsh, the new representative from South Plainfield.

Acceptance of Minutes

Walter made a motion to accept the minutes; Ken seconded the motion; all commissioners voted to accept the minutes.

Public Outreach

Walter recommended that the Barnes Commission and Preserve be listed on the Edison Parks and Rec website. He also recommended that we change the signs and clean the kiosks, and repair the gate at Tyler Road.

Robert Spiegel stated that he has the keys to gates and kiosks.

Robert asked if we can use an extension cord and water supply from Edison Public Works to clean kiosks. And do we have battery-powered Power Washers? He also asked about maintenance on the culverts.

Walter stated that such is the purview of the County Mosquito Commission

Robert Diehl stated he will try to coordinate with Edison township regarding a webpage.

We should create a website with the name BarnesPreserve.org.

Ken suggested that we create a Barnes Preserve webpage that is subordinate to nj.gov . After discussion, Ken stated that he will out to nj.gov office of information technology to see how it is done.

Robert Spiegel will research purchasing domain names related to the Barnes Preserve.

Master Plan Presentations

Walter stated that the commission has adopted the master plan. Procedure → public hearings in each municipality; feedback and reaction. Purpose is for public input. We are not restricted to everybody's comments are of equal value. Add or subtract language.

John stated that until master plan adopted, you cannot inform zoning officers of our powers. We can also update zoning for Woodbrook when we have the power to do so. We need to explain the master plan and ask what might be added. There will be no vote at these public meetings. Only comments.

Tom will get a date for South Plainfield

Bob for Edison

Dorothy for Metuchen

John stated that we need as many members as possible attend the meetings, which should be done on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Dorothy stated that the meetings must be live with no Zoom option.

By-laws amendment

Dorothy recommended that we amend the by-laws to allow expenses under \$500 to go without a vote.

John stated that we need to adopt a resolution stating that particular commissioners can sign a check for any amount below \$x amount.

Walter made a motion that the chair can pay any bill under \$500 without a resolution. Getting two signatures (chair and treasurer) and emailing the commission.

Bob D. seconded the motion. The commissioners voted unanimously in favor: Walter, Bob D., Ken, Tom, Robert S. , Charles, Dorothy.

Master Plan - Notification of Property Owners and Presentation

Charles asked if we are required to notify property owners about the master plan and meetings

John stated that no, according to statute, we are not.

Dorothy stated that we should set up meetings for 4th Thursday of every other month starting in March.

Ken stated that he and Walter will complete the PPT draft on the Master Plan for the municipal meetings.

Trails

Walter stated that he met with Rick Lear in December and that the route for the red trail is altered to drier land, Coolidge north of the Texas Eastern, taking a route toward Woodbrook along Tyler Rd to Nevsky Street. He stated also that the county will create rustic trailhead for the red trail. And that Rick Lear would like to confirm with Rob Bencivenga that it is okay for the county to put a stone parking lot on Coolidge. He stated that he has asked Rick Lear, the county to create a map using the GIS system. This will mark the first Conservation Corps work in northern Middlesex County. Ideally, the ribbon cutting on National Trails Day.

Parking

Rob S. ask if the town can put in a parking lot at Triple C, at 205 Tyler.

Walter stated that there is parking at Nevsky Street, already in S. Plainfield. He also asked if the town have a (blank mower big type) to cut the growth along Woodbrook Rd.).

There was a discussion of the need for catch basins to prevent litter from going into streams and to blaze a green Trail from Talmadge South to Metuchen.

Walter stated he would like to do a sunset hike as an ecotour in the coming spring. He also asked if we can remove sewer rises/caps from near Mayercik Court?

Robert Spiegel stated that we should give one of the signs to Peter Barnes' mother.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.