



Barnes Wildlife Preserve Commission

216 Amboy Avenue, Metuchen NJ 08840

Meeting Minutes November 14, 2024

Call to order – 7:25 PM

Attendance

Commissioners: Dorothy Giamboi, Walter Stochel, Kenneth Sammond, Robert Spiegel, Tom Walsh

Guests: Bruce Diamond, Peter Fairclough, Erica Peralta, John Wiley.

Reading of Sunshine notice.

Dorothy read the Sunshine notice.

Minutes

Approval of minutes of previous meeting – Walter made a motion, Ken seconded. All commissioners agreed.

Agenda

Legal Counsel

- Discussion of new legal counsel, Jeff Lehrer, to begin January 2025. Discussion concerning the hourly wage of the legal counsel of either \$125 or \$150. No cap on how much he can charge.
- The commissioners reviewed a resolution prepared by John Wiley for a vote.
- Walter made a motion to approve the hiring of Jeff Lehrer as legal counsel for the commission in the amount of \$150/hour. Ken seconded. Dorothy, Walter, Robert Spiegel, Ken, Tom approved.

Public Questions

- Peter Fairclough asked where the minutes are published.
- Dorothy stated that we currently provide them by request. We have no website yet, so we cannot publish them online.



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Website Presentation

- Ken did a presentation showing the mock-up of the website and requesting input and comments from the commissioners and guests. He recommended that the website have a timeline to be completed in late April, in time for Pete Barnes' birthdate. He stated that additional content is being added as he receives it. He also requested that each commissioner submit a photograph of themselves and a brief bio for the commissioner page. All of the commissioners had a chance to review the general layout and asked questions about the content and images.

Treasurer

- Dorothy stated that municipalities have to assist us with the fiscal reporting and the treasury duties until we get someone who can be the treasurer. There was discussion of having Walter Stochel serve as a signatory in lieu of Bob Diehl, who had been treasurer, no longer being able to serve in that capacity.

Legislation to add alternate commissioners

- There was a recommendation that the county also be added to the legislation so they can provide an alternate to attend in lieu of a commissioner who cannot attend a meeting.
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Other business

- Walter gave a Green Acres update concerning the potential to apply for funding for land acquisition and other projects eligible according to state guidelines.
- Walter gave an update on the wildlife in the preserve, focusing on evidence of beavers building dams and felling trees. He stated that he and Ken saw this evidence when they did an October walk.
- There was discussion of potential commission meeting dates going forward.

Adjournment

- Walter made a motion to adjourn at 8:21. Tom seconded. All said aye.