

Dismal Swamp Commission Meeting

Location: Edison Municipal Complex

Date: December 11, 2018

Attendees: Bob Seader, Bob Diehl, Treasurer; Walter Stochel, Jr. Vice Chair, Dorothy Rasmussen, Chair, John Wiley, and Kenneth Sammond, Secretary.

- Chair Dorothy Rasmussen opened the Meeting at 7:08 pm
- Chair Rasmussen inquired concerning the need for auditor or accountant to provide financial oversight.
- John Wiley stated that due to the requirements of the grant, we may not need an auditor or an accountant, based on the amount of income and disbursements.
- Chair Rasmussen updated the commissioners stating that she is keeping up with reports based on requirements of the grant, including the fact that Najarian is doing their work.
- Chair Rasmussen stated also that the grant period has been extended until December 2019.
- Chair Rasmussen updated the commissions on the work being performed by Najarian, stating that they are working through the tax maps. Moreover, Najarian has been given a copy of the plan completed by Princeton Hydro, completed in 2012.
- Chair Rasmussen state that the Borough of Metuchen is applying for a rivers to reforestation grant (submitted to ???) in order to fix a section of the Bound Brook owned by the borough.
- John Wiley stated that the new owner of the Gulton tract, which abuts the Dismal Swamp, has dug out a bunch of capacitors and pulled the rail ties on the trail created by the Boy Scouts.
- Ken Sammond asked who has oversight over this cleanup? Is it the borough or the DEP?
- Chair Rasmussen stated that she will ask Jay Muldoon for an update on oversight and progress on the cleanup
- John Wiley stated that following the determination of the metes and bounds, the Commission will have to review and update the master plan. Next steps for the process in purpose of the commission, the uses of the land and water, the actionables, the land use reviews, the regulation of third parties, as well as identifying and organizing the plan
- Ken Sammond stated that the commission should coordinate trails and a plan for what needs to be done there. Overall, the commission should be responsible for a logical and cohesive plan.
- Ken Sammond stated that it will make sense to have the commission coordinate all planning and funding for preservation and improvements to the Dismal Swamp.
- John Wiley asked if volunteers will do it? [unclear what this is in reference to, but in my notes here]
- Ken Sammond as will the water main work impact the swamp?
- John Wiley stated that it will not.
- Walter Stochel asked if the commissioners have to create a zoning ordinance for any work or land use requests.

- John Wiley stated that we have to create an application process and an application form created. We will also have to create criteria based upon the master plan. Finally, we will need to establish a schedule of fees in order to have applicants understand the process and requirements.
- John Wiley stated that he bring some model rules for us to base our own on. Will have to have a consulting naturalist. In the end, we should model our process on those commissions that we similar to, including the Highlands Commission, Meadowlands (New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority), the Pinelands Commission, and the Fish and Wildlife Services for the Great Swamp.
- John Wiley stated that he foresees the Commission receiving 4-5 requests over the next ten years.
- Chair Rasmussen closed the meeting by stating that the agenda for the next meeting involved discussing anticipated expenses and anticipated updated master plan. January 29, 2019 in South Plainfield.
- Walter Stochel announced that there would a field trip of the Dismal Swamp, tentatively scheduled for MLK weekend, January 19 or 20, 2019.
- The meeting was adjourned 7:56 pm.