

## Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission

Meeting July 23, 2019 7pm

Notes of the meeting taken by Walter Stochel

Attending: D. Rasmussen, Chair, W. Stochel, Vice Chair; R. Diehl, Treasurer; R. Seader, R. Bengivenga, C. Tomaro. John Wiley, Attorney for Commission

Harry Wiggins, Najarian Associates

Pete Faircloth, Public

- Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:06pm
- Approval of the minutes of the January 21, 2019 meeting. R. Diehl moved, W. Stochel seconded, All in favor.

Presentation of Dismal Swamp Boundaries by Harry Wiggins of Najarian Associates who described each map.

- Displayed large aerial photo maps of the Dismal Swamp showing State wetland lines and potential boundaries. They plotted every deed for every parcel. They pieced all the deeds together, real well, not a lot of problems. They also used GPS.
- R. Bengivinga questioned what would happen if a parcel was split between the Commission and a Municipality? J. Wiley said that any land use issue would be heard by both. Just like if a parcel was divided by 2 municipalities.
- Najarian has a list of all properties in the Dismal Swamp.
- Discussion of the maps, and corrections.
- Move the boundary to the east side of the old Lehigh Valley RR (Middlesex Greenway Extension.)
- Discussion of the woods and streams behind Woodbrook School, and Wilson School in Edison. Commission did not want to include these in boundary.

- Discussion of boundary line north of the Enclave, and south of Nevsky St. in Edison. Line will be adjusted.
- Also, to be corrected is a line near Coolidge St. in Edison/South Plainfield, and a line along the old Reading RR on the south side of the Swamp.
- Najarian will make adjustments as discussed.
- Najarian left the set of maps with Chair Rasmussen who will store them in Metuchen Borough Hall.
- A motion was made to pay Najarian the first payment as specified in the Contract: \$5475.00
- Moved by R. Diehl, Seconded by R. Bengevinga. All in favor.
- Chair Rasmussen then wrote out the check for Najarian.

#### Other business

- Sundays in the Swamp. W. Stochel offered to lead hikes in the Dismal Swamp as part of the Eco-Tours of Edison. Calling them Sundays in the Swamp the hikes will start in each of the 3 communities. The Commission was supportive of this idea.
- Old Colonial Road trail idea. John Wiley and W. Stochel presented to the Commission the idea of creating a trail on an old Colonial era road that was used from the 1700's to the 1970s. This follows the route of Tyler Rd. in Edison, and Woodbrook Rd. in South Plainfield. Wiley and Stochel walked this trail in April, and found it was visible in the field and not overgrown. Two stream crossings are needed, and some adjustment to the route may have to be done to move the trail away from the neighboring condominiums.
- More details are needed before the idea is presented to the County Parks Office, since most of the route is on County land.
- Joint Insurance Fund. J. Wiley plans to look into getting the Commission insurance coverage through the Joint Insurance Fund.
- R. Diehl, moved for adjournment, R. Seador seconded. All in Favor. Adjourned 8:45 PM.