



Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission

216 Amboy Avenue. Metuchen NJ 08840

Meeting March 25, 2021, 7:00 pm

Conducted via Zoom

Roll Call

Commissioners: Dorothy Rasmussen, Chair; Walter Stochel, Vice Chair; Kenneth Sammond, Secretary, Bob Diehl, Treasurer; Charles Tomaro, Joe Scrudato, Rob Bengivenga, John Wiley, Legal Counsel.

Other guests: Mark Hertzberg.

- Chair Rasmussen opened the meeting with a call to order at 7:00 PM. She welcomed everyone and began by asking if Najarian had responded to the changes to the metes and bounds suggested by Walter Stochel. She also stated that Chevron Properties (a Superfund site in South Plainfield) has been removed from the Dismal Swamp.
- Walter Stochel stated that this property represents only a small part of land abutting the Dismal Swamp.
- John Wiley stated that the metes and bounds have not yet been decided, so why has this change been made? The commission would next have to create a master plan for the Dismal Swamp. He stated further that there are three steps overall: 1) the commissioners approve the metes and bounds; 2) approval of the separate municipalities of the metes and bounds, following the public meetings; 3) create a master plan, which will include governing ordinances in an appendix. Ultimately, the master plan will be approved by the Dismal Swamp Commission.
- Mark Hertzberg stated that what we have now would not impede moving forward.
- John Wiley stated that once the metes and bounds are approved by the commissioners, we have to pull together a formal resolution to present to each municipality.
- Chair Rasmussen asked if there were any other concerns with the metes and bounds.

- John Wiley stated that the boundary must be finalized regarding whether it is to the east of the Lehigh Valley line or to the west of it.
- Walter Stochel pointed out that the lines did not match up on the preliminary mapping of the metes and bounds. They did not close completely.
- John Wiley stated that Bob Spiegel had pointed out that there was a tract on the corner of Coolidge and Talmadge (the Delio tract) which should be kept open. Edison Township had been considering it for a school.
- Walter Stochel indicated that the EPA wants to do less onsite work at the Woodbrook Superfund site, which abuts the Dismal Swamp.
- Bob Diehl mentioned that the overall site will be renamed the Peter Barnes Nature Preserve
- John Wiley stated that it will be the Peter Barnes Preserve with the Dismal Swamp.
- Charles Tomaro mentioned that there will be donors who will pay for signage and brochures indicating this change
- Bob Diehl made a motion to adjourn. Ken Sammond seconded. All approved. The meeting concluded at 8:15 PM.