



Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission

216 Amboy Avenue. Metuchen NJ 08840

Commissioner Meeting

Location: Metuchen Borough Hall

Date: September 24, 2020

Roll Call: Walter Stochel, Jr. Vice Chair; Dorothy Rasmussen, Chair; Kenneth Sammond, Secretary; Rob Bengivenga, Joe Scrudato. John Wiley, Attorney for Commission

Discussion of the Metes and Bounds:

- Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM. The meeting was simultaneously broadcast via Zoom. She stated that Bob Bucco of Najarian Associates was unable to attend tonight's meeting, as intended.
- Commission members reviewed the updated metes and bounds map created by Najarian Assoc. (incorporating updates and corrections based on prior review at the last meeting).
- Walter Stochel had met with Bob Bucco of Najarian about changes for placement of northeastern border of the metes and bounds at the railroad tracks. These changes were incorporated.
- Rob Bengivenga asked about the incorporation of the Hollywood Street extension through what is designated as metes and bounds, so if the S. Plainfield has incorporated the metes and bounds of the extension. He stated that he will have T & M Associates send Hollywood Street extension plans to Najarian for incorporation in the metes and bounds map.
- John Wiley asked that a resolution to pay the remainder of the \$10, 950 be made. He stated that Najarian was approved and paid 50 % at

outset and that currently the Chair is authorized to pay Najarian the remainder upon receipt of metes and bounds.

- Ken Sammond made a motion to pay Najarian the amount designated. Rob Bengivinga seconded the motion. Joe Scrudato, Walter Stochel and Chair Rasmussen voted "Yes."
- Walter Stochel stated that a schedule must be drawn up to notify impacted property owners of the metes and bounds.
- John Wiley asked how many private lots are on the maps.
- John Wiley volunteered to draft the letter of notification, stating that the letter will make owners aware of when the DSPC will present in each of the municipalities.
- John Wiley also asked if we should transmit map to towns to notify them of the metes and bounds intentions, stating that there must be a presentation and public hearing in each town, which will require a separate draft resolution for each town.
- Rob Bengivinga stated that each town would have a special council meeting for this at which the DSPC would make a presentation. He recommended that there would be two such meetings at each municipality: the first to present the metes and bounds, the second to approve the resolution accepting the metes and bounds.
- Chair Rasmussen asked how other towns conduct public meetings (are they in-person or virtual, or a hybrid? She acknowledged that Metuchen and South Plainfield have in-person meetings and virtual broadcast via Zoom.
- Walter Stochel stated that Edison's meetings are held via Zoom.
- Chair Rasmussen asked what sort of accommodations are being made for attendance at such meetings.
- John Wiley concluded that the intention is to schedule meetings in each town; however, the scheduling will have await final adjustments to the metes and bounds; therefore, the next step is to create a resolution of adopting the metes and bounds.

Other business:

- Walter Stochel displayed has a brochure that Metuchen created 20 years ago that described the Dismal Swamp. He noted that it needs updating.

- Ken Sammond stated that he will work with Walter to update this brochure.
- Walter Stochel asked whose legal jurisdiction (per rangers and policing) would the Dismal Swamp fall under. Since it is in three municipalities, with multiple public entities owning pieces, including the county, would it be logical to have it fall under the county's jurisdiction?\
- Walter Stochel stated that the DSPC can apply for historic designation for archaeological dig just off Talmadge Road, stating how there may be funds for historic preservation.
- Walter Stochel made a motion to adjourn. Rob Bengevinga seconded. All members voted in favor to adjourn at 8 PM.