

MEADOWLANDS CONVSERVATION TRUST
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: December 13, 2004
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Lyndhurst, New Jersey
RE: Meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, Chair
Hackensack Riverkeeper

ABIGAIL FAIR
Association of NJ Environmental Commission

GREG REMAUD
NY/NJ Baykeeper

MICHAEL GONELLI
Meadowlands Commissions Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

KRISTINA SCHVEJDA
Executive Director, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

PENNY LUDMAN, ESQ.
Deputy Attorney General

BETH CRUSIUS
Inter-Governmental Affairs

ABSENT:

DENNIS ELWELL
Mayor of Secaucus

MARK BECKER, Vice Chair
Co-Director of Bergen Save the Watershed Action Network

BOB CEBERIO
Executive Director, NJMC

1. Chair Sheehan presided over the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, Board of Trustees meeting.
2. After reading the Sunshine Law, Ms Schvejda read the roll call for the December 13, 2004 meeting of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust.
3. Review and Adoption of Minutes: Minutes of the October 19, 2004 meeting were reviewed and amended. Trustee Fair made a motion which was seconded by Trustee Gonelli and unanimously carried by acclamation.
4. Public Comment on Resolutions: DAG Ludman drafted and Chairman Sheehan proposed the resolution for --

“...Meadowlands Conservation Trust to hereby support the introduction of a bill to create a line item on the New Jersey State Income Tax Form.”

Motion to move resolution in support of the introduction of a bill for a line item on the NJ income tax form. Trustee Remaud made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fair and unanimously carried by acclamation.

5. Old Business:

A. Erik Kiviat with the Hudsonia- The MCT wants Mr. Kiviat to publish his paper, Where we Stand with the Hackensack Meadowlands, A Metropolitan Wildlife Refuge document/report. The MCT is waiting for him to follow up with them. The Trustees’ offer to underwrite the cost, of a limited publication, are still on the table but would also like to see the project completed soon.

B. Empire Tract discussion/update/presence in state- discussion delayed.

6. New Business:

A. Ms. Schvejda and Chairman Sheehan met with Senator Sarlo and his Chief of Staff, Chris Eilert, regarding legislation that would give the opportunity to NJ residents to allocate a charitable gift from their New Jersey taxes returns directly to the Meadowlands Conservation Trust. The legislation will direct this money specifically for land preservation only for the Meadowlands and Hackensack River watershed regions. Motion to move resolution in support of the introduction of a bill for a line item on the NJ income tax form. Trustee Remaud made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fair and unanimously carried by acclamation.

B. Directors Report: The license plate funding, is now in the black. Ms. Schvejda is to meet with Jim Krikos, of the Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce, to draft an article for their publication about the license plates funding mechanism. Ms. Schvejda is also looking to use “Stay in the Meadowlands” to promote the license plates.

C. Norwood Conservation Easement update- The Trust is moving forward with Norwood municipality on the easement deal. Thirty plus acres entitled Central Woods will be donated to the Meadowlands Conservation Trust in a Conservation Easement to be held in perpetuity.

D. Hire an administrative assistant- Ms. Schvejda is granted permission by the Trustees to draft a job description for a part time administrative assistant. This person will not receive benefits.

- E. Meeting with Jay Watson and John Flynn- Ms. Schvejda met with Mr. Mr. Watson and Mr. Flynn to discuss land acquisition opportunities in the upper watershed. Ms. Schvejda would like to get the full compliment of Trustees and staff together to meet with the Green Acres staff to discuss initiatives. Ms. Schvejda offered them a boat ride in early spring and will set up this meeting.
- F. Long Range Planning for 2005- Trustees Gonnelli and Remaud, as well as Vice Chair Becker need to commence the Land Acquisition Committee to discuss the long-term land acquisitions. Trustee Remaud suggested developing a strategy as to how to acquire land and figure out a way to advertise our interest in land. The MCT should consider meeting with other groups to network and partner with for future land acquisitions.
- G. Land Acquisition and GIS- GIS mapping is about 2/3 completed for the project and will be working with LAC to implement their target land parcels into the mapping.
- H. Hudson County Open Space- Questions raised regarding Hudson County's Open Space fund. There is 3 million dollars in this fund. Suggestions to work with Hudson County Open Space Committee and inform them about the posers of the MCT.
- I. NJ Trust Rally presentation with Hackensack Riverkeeper is on March 12, 2005- the presentation is called "Lesson Learned" with the Empire Tract as a centerpiece.
- J. National Land Trust Rally in 2008- Ms. Schvejda spoke to the head of the National Land Trust, Rand Wentworth about the possibility of bringing the Rally here to New Jersey in 2008. The Trustees discussed possible locations as either in Newark or possibly in Secaucus in the Convention Center. There was support by the Trustees to pursue Rally idea.
- K. Trustee Fair offered assist in presentations and forums with the towns.

7. Next Meeting set for February 11, 2005, at 10:30 AM.

8. Motion to adjourn meeting was made.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45.

Kristina R. Schvejda, Executive Director
Meadowlands Conservation Trust