

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 29, 2023
1:00 PM
Via Video and Teleconference**

Chairman Waldock called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. A quorum of trustees was present. At least one of the trustees was a state governmental representative.

The Open Public Meetings Act notice was provided as follows: Notice of the date, time, location, and agenda, to the extent known, was forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation, and provided to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. In addition, notice was provided on the Trust's website in compliance with the Act requiring State, regional, and local authorities, boards, and commissions to establish a website providing specific information to facilitate transparency in government.

In attendance were:

Margaret Waldock, Chair
Anne Heasley, Vice Chair
Emile DeVito, Trustee (arrived 1:40 PM)
Robert Jackson, Trustee
Alex Sitts, Trustee representative for State
Treasurer
Senator Bob Smith, State House
Commission Trustee
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee

Kelly Wenzel, Trustee
Todd Wyckoff, NJ State Forester, for John
Cecil, Trustee representative for DEP
Commissioner
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Jason Hafstad, Trust Staff
Terry Schmidt, Trust Staff
Cari Wild, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Angela Wenger, Audubon Mid-Atlantic

Guests: Debra Murphy

Introductions: Mr. Cartica introduced and welcomed new Trustees Kelly Wenzel (New Jersey Audubon Society), Todd Wyckoff (NJ State Forester), and Alex Sitts (NJ State Treasurer representative). Another new trustee, Angela Wenger (Audubon Mid-Atlantic), was unable to join the meeting. He advised that Anne Heasley and Emile DeVito were recently reappointed to the Board.

It was noted by the Trustees that this meeting is the first Trust meeting in more than 25 years that former Chair Michael Catania is not present. Mr. Catania's long-term commitment and numerous contributions to the Trust will be recognized at a future meeting.

General Public Comment:

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarters ending March 31 and June 30, 2023. Senator Smith motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Mr. Jackson

seconded the motion, and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

The **March 24, 2023 Minutes** were reviewed. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the minutes. Senator Smith seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report**. Since 2015, the William Penn Foundation has provided grant funding for environmental educational programming at Petty's Island, which we used to hire our current programming provider, the Center for Aquatic Sciences (CAS). The current grant expired on April 30, 2023. Effective May 2023, William Penn approved a new grant in the amount of \$109,000 which would cover an additional two years of CAS programming as well as community engagement activities through a new hourly employee, Linda Cairnes, who was formerly employed with CAS.

CITGO recently completed additional soil and sediment sampling in the former oil storage tank impoundments, as well as along the perimeter of the island, and is optimistic that these sampling results will result in a decreased area of remediation, which could be completed by end of 2025.

Ms. Waldock reported about a meeting she had with DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and his staff about partnership possibilities related to the Trust and Petty's Island.

Mr. Cartica advised the Board that on July 3, 2023, three new Natural Areas were designated to the NJ Natural Areas System including the Trust's Bennett Bogs and Hirst Ponds preserves.

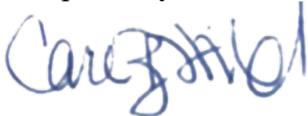
New Business:

The Board considered the proposed **Parnassus Preserve and Project Area in Montague, Sussex County**. Mr. Torok motioned to approve the Parnassus Preserve and Project Area. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion, and the preserve and project area were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

The last 2023 Board meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2023.

Mr. Jackson motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM by a unanimous vote of 10 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Cari Wild
Secretary/Treasurer