

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 16, 2022
12:00 PM
Via Video and Teleconference**

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:04 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:

Michael Catania, Chairperson	Eileen Murphy, Trustee
Anne Heasly, Vice Chairperson	Hannah Good, Trustee representative for the
Senator Bob Smith, State House	State Treasurer
Commission representative, Trustee	Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee	Terry Schmidt, Trust Staff
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee	Cari Wild, Trust Staff
Emile DeVito, Trustee	Deloris Nyerges, Trust Staff
Margaret Waldock, Trustee	

Absent:

Trustee representative for the DEP
Commissioner
Robert Jackson, Trustee

Guests:

Jason Howell, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Russell Juelg, NJ Conservation Foundation
Fred Akers and Brooke Handley, Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Gerald Kloby
Denise Appleget

General Public Comment:

Jason Howell commented that there is a perception that there is no state law enforcement preventing illegal offroad vehicle use and dumping on Trust preserves. Mr. Howell questioned whether the Trust had plans to add enforcement mechanisms. Gerald Kloby stated that he had heard that the State Park Police is not willing and/or able to provide law enforcement on Trust preserves. Mr. Cartica and Ms. Wild explained that the State Park Police have legal authority to provide law enforcement actions on Trust preserves related to statutory violations and are very

supportive of doing so but currently have a limited capacity. In the meantime, the Trust is working with the State Park Police to focus on prioritized preserves.

Fred Akers indicated that his staff within the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association are very interested in working proactively with the Trust to protect the Gravelly Run, a Wild and Scenic River, which may include partnering with Hamilton Township police to establish access barriers and law enforcement. Mr. Catania indicated appreciation for this support of Trust preserve stewardship. Senator Smith noted that he had included funding in the NJDEP budget for a Trust volunteer coordinator to enhance and leverage these kinds of stewardship partnerships and collaborations.

Mr. Cartica introduced Deloris “Dee” Nyerges, who provides the Trust with administrative support since Darin Oliver was promoted to a new position within NJDEP, and Jason Hafstad (not in attendance), who was recently hired to fill the vacancy created by Martin Rapp’s retirement.

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarter ending March 31, 2022. Ms. Waldock motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Ms. Heasley seconded the motion, and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

The **March 25, 2022 Minutes** were reviewed. Senator Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Catania and Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty’s Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report**. The William Penn Foundation has provided grants for environmental educational programming at Petty’s Island since 2015. Currently, the programming provider is the Center for Aquatic Sciences (CAS). The Trust just renewed its contract with CAS for another year and can renew it for three additional one-year terms. The current William Penn grant expires on April 30, 2023. In January, the Trust will apply for an additional two-year programming grant.

On September 13, 2022, Cari Wild met with the Mayor of Camden. The mayor is very interested in Petty’s Island being opened to the public as quickly as possible. CITGO Petroleum Corporation and its Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) have proposed a remediation plan which could be fully implemented within approximately three years allowing the island to be transferred into state ownership, but which is based on remediation to residential standards within five acres around the future visitor’s center and non-residential standards on the rest of the island. The NJDEP is requiring remediation to ecological standards, which may be orders of magnitude more stringent than residential or nonresidential standards.

Mr. Catania noted that the Petty’s Island Committee will be meeting in mid-October. Ms. Waldock has agreed to chair this committee.

Mr. Catania also reported that the Trust’s Shorebird Committee, chaired by Ms. Murphy, met on August 15, 2022 to discuss issues such as replenishment of the Trust’s Shorebird Fund, the

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's use of the ARM model, limits on female horseshoe crab harvest, and the potential for a stable funding source for habitat stabilization/restoration. The Committee includes Trustees Mr. Catania, Ms. Heasley, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Torok as well as Dr. Amanda Dey, Tim Dillingham of American Littoral Society, and Larry Niles and Stephanie Feigin of Wildlife Restoration Partnerships. Ms. Murphy indicated that she would provide Shorebird Committee reports at future meetings.

New Business:

Ms. Wild advised that the **2021 Annual Report** was circulated to the Board and is posted on the Trust's website.

Ms. Wild presented the **Writing the Land Project** which currently involves two preserves, Petty's Island (Camden County) and Mackenzie's Bog (Sussex County). This national project pairs poets with preserved lands, resulting in an annual published anthology containing the poems as well as ten pages of pictures, maps, or other information about the preserve provided by the land trust. Ms. Waldock, who worked with this project at Duke Farms, expressed that it offers creative ways to engage a land trust's community and expand its constituencies.

The Trust's bylaws provide that in the event a decision by the Board is required and a special meeting cannot be held due to time constraints or lack of a quorum, the Executive Director may poll the members of the Board to determine their preference on an issue. In such a circumstance, the Executive Director shall supply to each Board member, in writing, a draft resolution and information sufficient for Board consideration. With the concurrence of at least seven (7) members of the Board, the Executive Director may act in accordance with the resolution. The same resolution will then be presented to the Board, for affirmation, at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

On January 20, 2022, Mr. Cartica circulated via email a **Resolution of the NJ Natural Lands Trust Approving Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project 2022 Budget Request by Endangered and Nongame Species** and polled the Trust's Board to determine their preference on the Resolution and received the following responses:

Michael Catania	Yes	Emile DeVito	Yes
Anne Heasley	Yes	Margaret Waldock	Yes
Theresa Lettman	Yes	Eileen Murphy	Yes
Judeth Yeany	Yes	Senator Smith	Yes
Larry Torok	Yes	Marlen Dooley	Yes
Hannah Good	Yes		

Therefore, the Resolution was unanimously approved. Mr. DeVito motioned to affirm the Resolution. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously affirmed by a vote of 9 to 0.

The scheduled date for the Board's last 2022 meeting is December 2, 2022.

Ms. Murphy motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cari Wild", written in dark ink.

Cari Wild
Secretary/Treasurer