

**MERCER COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 7, 2025; 5:00 PM
****Meeting via Zoom online platform****

Mercer County Administration Building
640 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08650-0068

VOTING MEMBERS:

(Present)

Maria Connolly, Director of Planning, County Executive Designee

Haig Kasabach, Chair, Assunpink Representative

Alan Hershey, Vice Chair, Piedmont Representative

Michael Shine, Planning Board Representative

Mike Long, Park Commission Representative

Timothy London, Urban Representative

Wendy Mager, Millstone Representative

NON-VOTING:

(Present)

Cindy Taylor, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Kasabach called the October 7, 2025 meeting of the Mercer County Open Space Preservation Board to order at 5:05 pm.

- I. Statement of Adequate Notice
Ms. Taylor stated that pursuant to the Sunshine Law, notice of this meeting was advertised in the Trenton Times on February 14, 2025 and posted on the Mercer County Planning website.
- II. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2025 meeting
Ms. Mager moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Shine seconded. The motion unanimously passed.
- III. Public Comment
None
- IV. Old Business
None
- V. New Business
Ms. Taylor summarized the Robbinsville Township MCOSAP application for a fee acquisition of Oasis Farm, Block 38 Lot 6.01 in Robbinsville Township located at the intersection of Robbinsville Allentown Road (Rt 526) and Circle Drive. The property is approximately 12.7 acres and consists of a fallow field, parking lot, wooded area, and stream frontage to an Indian Run tributary. The intended future use is passive recreation activities such as birdwatching and stream exploration.

The property was appraised for \$2,500,000 and the price is a bargain sale for \$2,000,000. The grant application requests \$1,000,000 in funding, which is 40% of the appraised value. The other funding source for this project is Robbinsville's own Open Space Trust Fund.

Ms. Mager moved to approve a resolution to fund the application and Mr. Shine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion

a. Project Updates – County Open Space/Farmland Acquisitions

Ms. Taylor shared that the County Agricultural Development Board (CADB) voted to amend the County’s Agricultural Development Area on August 4th. This amendment expands the amount of farmland that is now eligible for State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) funding for farmland preservation. Additionally, there are three properties that currently have applications submitted to the SADC for farmland preservation:

- a. DiDonato – Block 7301 Lot 47 Hopewell Township, 18.14 acres, Cold Soil Road
- b. Hoffman – Block 89 p/o Lot 12.01 Hopewell Township, 114.59 acres, Washington Crossing Pennington Road
- c. Fluck – Block 2 Lot 7 Robbinsville, 18 acres, Sharon Road

Regarding Open Space, Ms. Taylor shared that on February 12, Mercer County closed on the Hoge II property in Hopewell Township, Block 18 Lot 2.011 (23.72 acres). This project was done in partnership with D&R Greenway, and D&R Greenway will manage the natural resources and public access for the property. The County retained full ownership so that in the future, this property may be used to connect the Lawrence Hopewell Trail to Hopewell Borough.

The County has two properties tentatively closing next week:

- d. “Ewing Leasing Property” at 5th and Spruce in Ewing. This acquisition will create a pocket park in Ewing and extend the Johnson Trolley Trail to Spruce Street.
- e. “Dale Property” at 87 Valley Road in Hopewell. Once acquired, this will be managed as part of Howell Living History Farm.

b. Project Updates - Parks

Mr. Long shared that construction on the wharf park improvements are now expected to begin during summer 2026. Two applications to Green Acres for improvements at Rosedale Park – a completely inclusive playground and living shoreline project – were funded. The living shoreline project is underway, and the inclusive playground is delayed for environmental investigation. Additionally, a section of trail at Mercer Meadows will be paved in the next couple of months.

VII. Correspondence

None

VIII. Closed session

None

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Hershey moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm and it was seconded by Ms. Mager. Motion passed unanimously.