**NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**35 Years of Service to Improving Delaware’s Quality Of Life**

**“Preserving Delaware’s Natural Areas Today For All Delawareans Tomorrow”**

**NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

March 10, 2016

Lums Pond State Park Nature Center

1068 Howell School Road

Bear, DE 19701

9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

**Council Members:**

Debbie Heaton, Chair

Peter Martin

John Williams, Esq.

Jim White

Christopher Heckscher

Ed Lewandowski

**Guests:**

John Fellows, Duffield

Jordan Morrison, Duffield

Jeff Bross, Duffield

Bill Rhodunda, Esq.

Gary Rittle, Kroenke Group

John Paul Andrews, Costco

**Staff:**

Eileen Butler, Parks & Recreation, DNREC

Ron Vickers, Parks & Recreation, DNREC

Ray Bivens, Parks a& Recreation, DNREC

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**I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions/Announcements**

Ms. Heaton, Chairperson, called the Natural Areas Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. She welcomed Council members and staff and asked for announcements.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Heaton asked for a motion to approve the December 10, 2015 minutes. Motion was made by Mr. Lewandowski to approve minutes, Mr. White seconded. Motion carried.

**III. Old Business**

* *Costco Fueling Station –* Various representatives attended the meeting today to present Costco’s case requesting for a modification of the Christina River Natural Area boundary to permit Costco to locate a fueling station within its leased property. The applicant does not believe the current young forest meets the criteria for Natural Area designation. According to New Castle County Code the applicant cannot build a fueling station within a natural area. The applicant indicated that in 1992 the area in question was a staging area for the construction of Costco and as such does not meet the criteria. According to the regulations that implement the Natural Areas Preservation System law, within 120 days from when the Office of Nature Preserves received the application for delisting (which was March 1, 2016) a Technical Committee is to be convened to survey the area in question. A report will then be submitted to Staff and Council. Once the report is received, both Staff and Council will prepare its decision for the Department Secretary.

**IV. Natural Areas Registry**

* *Faithful Friends* – The delisting application was rescinded. The consultant and its representatives discussed its desire to reduce impacts to the natural area if it can, but that they likely will also be adding an additional road behind the adjacent property to access the State site for the Faithful Friends facility. The consultant indicated that they would keep lines of communication open when designing road/buildings.

**V. Nature Preserve Dedications**

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1. **Nature Preserve Management Issues**
2. **New Business**
* Ms. Heaton, Mr. White, and Mr. Heckscher walked portions of wet forest within Lums Pond with Parks staff to discuss the possibility of including 18 acres of this forest to the existing Lums Pond Woods Nature Preserve.
1. **Public Comment and Synopsis Reports From Other Councils, Stakeholders, and Partners**
2. **2016 Council Meeting Dates/Time**

 June 9, September 8, and December 8

1. **Adjournment**

Ms. Heaton asked for a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 pm.