

NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COUNCIL
36 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 MINUTES

March 14, 2019
Rose Cottage
102 South State Street
Dover, DE 19901
9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members:

Debbie Heaton, Chair
Edward Lewandowski, Secretary
John Williams
Richard Bergold

Park Staff:

Bob Ehemann
Elena Stewart
Bill Miller
Sarah Sellers
Tim Byan

I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

Mrs. Heaton called the Natural Areas Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. welcoming Council members and staff and asked for announcements.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum to approve the Dec 2018 meeting minutes.

III. Old Business

- *Nature Areas Program Logo* - Sarah Sellers, Graphics Designer, presented an updated draft of the logo. Debbie asked if the logo can now be incorporated in the website. Bob will check with the webmaster and incorporate on the web page when possible. Elena added that DNREC website is migrating to a new site.
- *Natural Preserve Program Video/website* - this initiative has been differed until the Natural Areas Program Manager position is filled.
- *White Clay Creek Master Plan update* – Bill Miller explained that a final draft of the plan will be presented at a public open house in the coming months and a public hearing to follow.

- *Waysides* – no new discussion at this time.

IV. Natural Areas Registry

- No issues at this time.

V. Nature Preserve Dedications

- No issues at this time.

VI. Nature Preserve Management Issues

- No issues at this time.

VII. New Business

- Bill Miller provided maps showing the current nature preserves in White Clay Creek State Park and the 1954 aerials. Bill referenced an area identified in Lorraine Flemming's book *Delaware's Outstanding Natural Areas and Their Preservation* (1978) as a possible addition to the Nature Preserve located south of Wedgewood Road and west of Creek Road. Council members were in favor of supporting this and made some suggestions on boundary locations.
- Elena Stewart provided maps of the Fork Branch area and the interest to transfer 10.12 acres from DeIDOT to DNREC.
- *Natural Areas Program Manager position* – Seven candidates were interviewed in January and two selected. Both turned down the offer. The Division will repost the position for 14 days. Bob will share update with council members.
- *Council Vacancy* – Mr. Bergold suggested a candidate to replace Peter Martin on the Councilor but has not approached that person. Council members are on the lookout for potential candidates. Bob will look into if political party and any geographic considerations are a requirement to fill the vacant Council position.
- *Conservation Easement brochure* – final draft version of brochure was shared. It provides a general overview of conservation easements to landowners who are interested in protecting their property.
- *Park Council update* – Mr. Lewandowski mentioned the surf fishing fees and the opportunity for the public to comment.
- Mr. Lewandowski complimented the Division on Park School which is a day of sharing and learning among Division staff and partners.

VIII. Public Comment

- No public comments.

IX. Proposed Meeting Dates

- June 6, September 5 and December 12 subject to change

- Considering September 5 site visit to Thompson Island, Big Chill.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourn at 10:20 am and Council members joined the annual Conservation Partnership meeting at 10:30 a.m.

DRAFT