

**MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Public Session Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2021**

The meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held on this date at the Knowlton Municipal Building, 628 Route 94, Columbia, New Jersey and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Starrs. Mayor Starrs led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Starrs read the following statements “This meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: P: 1975, Chapter 231, noting that notice of all regularly scheduled meetings has been published in the *New Jersey Herald* and/or Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk’s office.”

Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes.

PRESENTATION

Barbara Davis Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Ms. Davis stated that the Land Conservancy of New Jersey has been hired to update the Township’s open space and recreation plan and prepared a slide show presentation. The presentation explained how the plan is being funded, which is through the William Penn foundation with the Delaware Water Gap initiative, and why the open space and recreation plan needs to be updated. The last update was done in 2002. In order for the township to be eligible for matching grants with NJDEP Green Acres, the plan needs to be current within 10 years. Ms. Davis explained the benefits of open space, which include contributing to quality of life, improved air & water quality and flood mitigation and enhancing homeowner’s property value just to name a few. Ms. Davis stated that updating the township’s goals for open space and recreation will be one of the next steps.

Mayor Starrs asked if any work can be done on the Paulin Kill trail, which is not owned by Knowlton township, but many residents use the trail. Ms. Davis stated that she can put that recommendation in. Mayor Starrs also asked about township property that is along the river for upkeep and improvement. Ms. Davis explained a new grant program in which you do not need a plan update and can be done at any time.

Tara Mezzanotte talked about the Columbia Wildlife Management Park. There is a group that likes to horseback ride but new signs say that horseback riding is not permitted there. Ms. Davis explained that it is a state facility and Ms. Mezzanotte should reach out to the Director of Warren County Land Preservation and ask why the county is not allowing horseback riding.

There were no further questions and Mayor Starrs thanked Ms. Davis for the presentation as well as Rene Mathez and Bob McNinch for their hard work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte read qualifications for an outreach liaison for the NJTPA and feels that she fits the criteria and would like the township to write a letter of support.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to have Mayor Starrs write a letter of support to

have Tara Mezzanotte be the NJTPA outreach liaison.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS

2021-97- Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County, New Jersey, that all claims attached are hereby approved as reasonable and proper claims against the Township of Knowlton.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that approval for payment is hereby given to the Chief Financial Officer to pay said claims, subject to the availability of funds.

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Van Horn and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shippis—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes resolution 2021-97.

New Business

Revised Soil Exportation Ordinance

Attorney St. Angelo revised the Ordinance which is meant for soil exportation over 100 cubic yards. The ordinance just simply states that if you are going to sell or give away soil, you need to get a permit and prove that the soil is clean. Permit is \$100 plus \$10 per 1,000 yards over the 100 cubic yards.

Since no changes were made the ordinance was introduced. Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes Shippis—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Ordinance 2021-13.

Old Business

F&R Use of Reservoir in Village of Delaware

Fire & Rescue has confirmed that they are not interested in taking over possession of the reservoir in the village of Delaware. Discussion took place regarding the flooding that is caused by the reservoir in the village. Since it is not township owned, the township is to take no responsibility for the upkeep of the reservoir.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Shippis needs confirmation to pay a Tru-green bill that was for vegetation. Mayor Starrs stated that she approved that for the baseball fields a Tunnel Field. Vegetation treatment will be on a as need basis.

Clerk Shippis also explained that the silent beacon did not work and is requested for the security quote be put back on the next meeting for discussion. Committee agreed.

MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2021 Public Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve September 13, 2021 Public Session Meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte- told the committee that a document needs to be reviewed and signed off in order for the township to become designated Municipality with the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to go into Executive Session at 7:51 pm
2021- 98 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session**

Personnel

Attorney Advice

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to come out of Executive Session at 8:33 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Van Horn, second by Starrs and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:34 pm

DRAFT