

**MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Public Session Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022**

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 statement: “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 (joined at 7:15), Shipp—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte provided the committee with an update regarding the rock wall mitigation. Mrs. Mezzanotte received documents that she requested two years ago but the documents did not include the plans for the retaining wall. This document needs to be requested by a government entity. Concerns if the documents are public record once it is obtained by the municipality. Committee agreed to have Mayor Starrs request the documents and then forward to the attorney for review to see if they are permitted for public distribution.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS --No Department Reports

RESOLUTIONS:

2022-21- Resolution to Support Designation of Delaware Water Gap as a National Park

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to approve Resolution 2022-21.

2022-22 Resolution about North Terrace Water Association

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to approve Resolution 2022-22.

2022-23 Resolution about Altice Requesting to do work in right-of-way on Countryside Dr, Meadow Ridge Rd, Bridge Rd, Poppy Ct, and Station Rd

Mayor Starrs explained that there is no signed townwide contract with Altice. Without a contract Altice will request ~~with the township~~ to do work on a street-by-street basis. These streets were requested by the township. Mayor Starrs had concerns about language regarding cutting into a resident’s driveway after three attempts. Language was put in the resolution that the township engineer needs to be consulted before cutting into the township roadway or sidewalk and that that Altice may disturb a resident’s driveway after obtaining permission of the owner of the driveway.

Committeeman Mazza strongly feels that the township should not proceed until a contract has been signed with Altice. He does not feel confident that the township would be protected without that contract.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and not approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—no, Shipp—abstain, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes Resolution 2022-23.

Mayor Starrs will notify Altice to inform them they may move forward on these roads and action needs to be made on signing the contract.

2022-24 Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to approve Resolution 2022-24.

2022-25 Payment of Vouchers

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes Resolution 2022-25.

OLD BUSINESS

Security System--Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to accept the CSI quote with \$150 installation cost and a service fee of \$27.50 per month

NEW BUSINESS

Knowlton Receives \$75,000 Grant for Tunnel Field

Mayor Starrs stated that the grant was approved from the state and received \$75,000 for improvements to tunnel field. Township Engineer Denis Keenan estimated \$110,000 for all improvements. Recreation Director Dennis Lembeck would like to prioritize fixing the basketball court since it is utilized the most. Committee agreed with Mr. Lembeck and will have the basketball court fixed first, with the walking path second, which would include removing the trees along the path since they are causing the track to heave, and tennis court third, which needs a sealing coat and a fence fixed.

Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Memorandum

Mayor Starrs read some key points of the memorandum of understanding which the committee would need to sign in order to join. Tara Mezzanotte the Knowlton township representative for the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River does not have any issues with the memorandum. Committee agreed to move forward, and a resolution will be placed for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

John Anderson of JCP&L stated that the Wildlife Management area has a tentative date of March 15th to open. Nature Conservancy and NJDEP were waiting on JCP&L because of the sub-station.

Discussion took place regarding employees using their sick time if they are exposed to COVID or having the township grant them leave with pay. Motion made by Shipps, second by Cuntala and carried to have employees use PTO if they are exposed to COVID.

MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes-tabled

October 28, 2021 Public Session Meeting Minutes-tabled

November 8, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approved November 8, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

November 8, 2021 Public Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve November 8, 2021 Public Session Meeting Minutes.

December 13, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve December 13, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

December 13 Public Session Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve December 13 Public Session Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte- went to Northampton County Committee with a well-represented group to present the Warren County Fix the S curve resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:06 pm