

CENTRAL PINE BARRENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**February 22, 1996
Great River Office**

The minutes are out of sequence when compared to the original agenda.

1.) **Approval of September 26, 1995 Advisory Committee Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Lowrie and seconded by Mr. Pally to approve the minutes from the September 26, 1995 Advisory Committee Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. LoGrande stated that Mr. Deering will be leaving the Advisory Committee, and will no longer be the Vice Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Deering will now be working for Friends of the Bay.

A motion was made by Mr. LoGrande and seconded by Mr. Amper thanking Mr. Deering for his contribution and service to the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee, and to wish him well. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. LoGrande stated that a new Vice Chairman will now be needed.

Mr. Schwenk made a motion to nominate Mr. Amper for the position of Vice Chairman of the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pally, and was carried unanimously.

2.) **Report of Executive Director - Ray Corwin**

Mr. Corwin reviewed the list of topics currently being worked on by the Commission. Mr. Corwin stated that the Commission issued a Second Annual Report of Activities. This document was distributed to those who did not receive it prior to this meeting. A summary of acquisitions to date is included in this document, along with the status of the TDR program. Mr. Corwin reviewed the Second Annual Report of Activities. The TDR Credit Clearinghouse members were announced. Letters of Interpretation have been issued on a regular basis. The Board meets once a month, and has met approximately five times to date. Mr. Corwin stated that the Wildfire Taskforce is a new group which has formed. This group meets once a month. The goal of this Taskforce is to develop a Fire Management Plan which will include a fire response and fire prevention component. In terms of litigation, the Commission presently has one lawsuit pending.

Ms. Plunkett reviewed the development activity. Ms. Plunkett stated that the Long Island Compost application was withdrawn.

The Commission has approved 14 projects in the core area. Five projects have been denied in the core, and three projects are pending.

In the Compatible Growth area, 25 projects have been approved. Four projects are currently pending, and one project has been denied.

3.) Report of Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse - James T.B. Tripp

Mr. Tripp stated that the Clearinghouse has three functions.

- 1) An Administrative function to pay attention to what happens with Pine Barrens credits, to issue credits, and to reissue credits when transfers occur.
- 2) A Clearinghouse Function which is to provide information to buyers and sellers
- 3) To maintain integrity of the program and to assure the credits are valued. Also, to promote the market and credits.

The handbook has been issued to all known property owners within the three Towns. The Pine Barrens Credit Registry was distributed. This document is a list of property owners in the core area who are interested in selling credits, or have asked for letters of interpretation and are interested in selling credits. Also, those who have received credits and that are interested in selling the credits. One major function is to match buyers and sellers and help to promote the market.

The TDR Clearinghouse will be meeting with the development community in a few weeks to describe the TDR program in more detail.

The Clearinghouse received approximately 5 million dollars from the Northville Settlement. This money is being invested by the Suffolk County Treasurer. A monthly report is received each month.

The Clearinghouse has retained the services of Economist, Dr. James Nicholas. An analysis is being developed on the likely range of value on Pine Barrens Credits in the receiving areas in each of the three towns. A draft report should be available during the month of March.

The value of a Pine Barrens Credit has not yet been determined. The market will determine the value of credits. The Clearinghouse will purchase credits, not property.

A discussion with regard to Pine Barrens Credits took place.

Mr. LoGrande had to leave at this time to attend a Suffolk County Water Authority Board meeting after which Mr. Amper presided over the balance of the Advisory Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Tripp and seconded by Mr. Schwenk that the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee write to the Assembly Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and the Governor, urging them to approve the Chapter Amendments (A-8846 + S-6112), as endorsed by the Commission. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Gergela and seconded by Ms. Passantino to oppose additional County bonding as proposed in introductory law #1164-96 before the Suffolk County Legislature. The motion was carried unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Meringolo raised concerns that the County Plan may characterize fishing as an active use. Mr. Meringolo stated that if additional lands be acquired under the quarter cent sales tax program, and hikers and fisherman cannot access these properties, it is of great concern.

A motion was made by Mr. Meringolo and seconded by Mr. Herrick with respect to the acquisition of lands under the quarter cent sales tax program, and that those lands be used for the purposes permitted under the Long Island Pine Barrens Plan. The motion was carried unanimously.

A discussion ensued regarding land use.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepert and seconded by Mr. Darrow that the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee endorse an Initiative and Referendum involving a petition to place on the Suffolk County ballot a referendum mandating that all funds generated by the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program shall be used exclusively for drinking water protection and no other government purposes. The motion was carried. There were two abstentions.

At this point, there was no quorum present.

A motion was made by Mr. Schwenk and seconded by Mr. Shaber having the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee urge the Suffolk County Legislature to approve Introductory Law #1179-96, a resolution that would put on the ballot a change in the Drinking Water Protection Program that would read a maximum of 8% be used for tax stabilization. The motion was carried. There was one opposed, and one abstention.

A discussion took place regarding the quarter cent sales tax program.

A motion was made by Mr. Darrow and seconded by Mr. Colao that the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee recommend to the Commission and Department of Environmental Conservation that every effort be made to increase the Ranger force in Region 1 on Long Island. Mr. Meringolo amended the motion by adding that Conservation Officers, distinguished from Rangers be increased as well. The motion was carried. There were two opposed.

Mr. Black discussed the memorandum to the Ecology Committee which was distributed at this evening's meeting. Mr. Black stated that the Ecology Committee is concerned about the fact that they do not feel that there is a good knowledge of the natural resources in either the core or the compatible growth area. Mr. Black stated that The Protected Lands Council has been discussing land uses on the public lands in the core before determining management goals and objectives. Mr. Black stated that many of these land uses may be incompatible in ecologically sensitive areas. It was agreed upon that this topic would be appropriate to discuss at the next Protected Lands Council Meeting.

4.) South Fork Promotion Letter

There was discussion regarding a letter from the South Fork Promotion Committee which Mr. LoGrande had received.

A motion was made by Mr. Gergela and seconded by Mr. Lowrie suggesting that the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee Chairman send a letter to the South Fork Promotion Group advising them that the statute creating the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee does not permit the substitution of groups for others specifically provided for in the legislation; however, the South Fork Promotion Group may designate a representative from the Westhampton Chamber of Commerce to represent their group at Advisory Committee meetings and to vote in their stead. The motion was carried unanimously.

5.) Next Meeting Date

The next Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee will be on Monday, May 13, 1996, 5:30 p.m., at the Great River Commission office.

CENTRAL PINE BARRENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following resolutions were passed at the Central Pine Barrens Advisory Committee Meeting of February 22, 1996.

- 1) Increase the Ranger force as well as Conservation Officers in Region 1 on Long Island.

To: Michael Zagata, Commissioner of NYSDEC
Ray Cowen, Region 1 Director, NYSDEC

- 2) Approval of Chapter Amendments (A-8846 & S-6112), as endorsed by the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission.

To: Honorable George Pataki
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver
Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno

- 3) Support involving a petition to place on the Suffolk County ballot a referendum mandating that all funds generated by the Suffolk County drinking water program shall be used exclusively for drinking water protection and no other government purposes.

To: Members of the Suffolk County Legislature
Suffolk County Executive Robert Gaffney
*Members of the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission

- 4) Approval of Introductory Law #1179-96 authorizing a ballot amendment that would limit expenditures for purposes other than drinking water protection to 8% under the County's drinking water protection program.

To: *Members of the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
Members of the Suffolk County Legislature

*The above letters were all carbon copied to Advisory Committee members as well.