

New Jersey



County Planners Association

Year 2021

President

Ranae Fehr
Atlantic County

Treasurer

Francesca Giarratana
Hudson County

Secretary

Tom Stanuikynas
Burlington County

President Emeritus

Walter Lane
Somerset County

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NJCPA Regular Meeting
April 16, 2021 at 11:00 am
VIA Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** President Ranae Fehr welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM. Secretary Tom Stanuikynas followed with a Roll Call of counties. Quorum was achieved.
2. **Agency / Partner Updates (NJTPA, OPA, NJDEP, NJAC, RPA etc.):**
OPA (Donna Rendeiro) – Ranae Fehr announced, on behalf of Donna Rendeiro, that at the April 7, 2021 State Planning Commission meeting, Millstone Borough, Somerset County was the first community to receive plan endorsement of an expired center. Walter Lane congratulated the Borough and recognized their hard work and effort. Walter indicated that the NJDEP raised concerns regarding environmental sensitive lands being included within center boundaries during the process and voted no.
3. **Business**
 - a. **Executive Committee Report** – Ranae Fehr announced that the County Planners Association Executive Committee met last week with the County Engineers Association’s Executive Committee to discuss the joint meeting to be held on May 14, 2021 at 11:00 AM. We will have an abbreviated meeting for our regular business items from 10:30 to 11 AM, The two committees agreed that the meeting will last for two hours. Ideas were narrowed down to four topics, which will be discussed for thirty minutes each. The four topics are stormwater, complete streets, development review and utility relocation. Emails will be sent out in advance of the meeting. Note the change in meeting date and time. The NJ Planning and Redevelopment Conference will be held in June. The Association submitted a session proposal but it was not accepted due to the overwhelming amount of proposals. A meeting will be held to discuss the steps regarding the Association’s scholarship program. Kate Katzer (Somerset County) has experience in this subject and offered to assist. The letter sent to NJAC regarding the proposed legislation regarding County Planning Boards was circulated to the general membership. The letter stated that the Association does not support the legislation as is and outlines issues brought up by the membership. An offer was extended by the Association to meet with legislators in order to develop proposed revisions.
 - b. **Meeting Minutes** – The March 2021 meeting minutes were distributed in advance to the general membership by Ranae Fehr via email. Tom Stanuikynas asked for a motion to approve the March 2021 meeting minutes, which was made by Kamal Saleh (Union) and seconded by Mark Villinger (Ocean), all in favor none opposed.
 - c. **Treasurer’s Report** –The Treasurer’s Report was shared with the group. Francesca Giarratana summarized the recent transactions, which include a payment to Kate Katzer for website fees and

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income from the 2021 dues collected to date. Francesca noted that the Report was reformatted to better display accounts receivable, based on input from the previous meeting. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Walter Lane (Somerset) and seconded by Mark Villinger (Ocean), all in favor none opposed.

4. **Presentation: County Project: Somerset County Farmland Preservation StoryMap, Walter Lane and Katelyn Katzer, with introduction by Somerset County Commissioner Paul Drake** – Commissioner Drake recognized the work of the County's planning staff and agricultural board. Walter Lane thanked Commissioner Drake and recognized contributions from individual County staff members. Kate Katzer stated that the County was set to launch an interactive website at its annual Ag Day in March 2020 but the event was canceled due to COVID-19. The new StoryMap launched in March 2021 and allows users to find farmer's market in their area and learn about Women's History in farming and their contribution to agriculture. The purpose of the application is to educate the public and give users the experience of visiting the farms in a virtual setting during the pandemic. The StoryMap walks users through the history of farming and agricultural preservation within Somerset County. The web application includes six curriculums created by the County and is a great tool for teachers to utilize in their classrooms. To describe women's achievements in agriculture, the County created trading cards that contain QR codes that link to various web resources. The StoryMap contains great pictures of farms and videos about farming practices and provides weblinks to the County's Preservation Plan and Annual Report. The County partnered with the 4-H Club and the County Vo-Tech School to share information on the StoryMap. To show support to the farmers during the pandemic, the County created a 3-part booklet to assist both towns and farmers find safe and socially-distanced ways to host farmer's markets. The StoryMap also includes a search feature that the public can use to find preserved farms and farmer's markets near them and determine when and if they are accessible. The StoryMap will be available for viewing on the Association's webpage.
5. **Working Group Updates** – Ranae reminded the group that there will be a Farmland Preservation breakout session following the County Planners Association meeting at 12:30 PM. No meeting for electric vehicles has been scheduled yet. Walter Lane indicated that a letter to the NJDEP addressing the Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) template was circulated to the general membership. The group finalized the letter and the next step is to send it to the NJDEP for their consideration. A motion to send the letter to the NJDEP regarding the WMP template was made by Kamal Saleh (Union) and seconded by Kate Katzer (Somerset), all in favor none opposed.
6. **Committee Updates** – Ranae indicated that she has received interest from members in regards to serving on the various committees. Ranae asked for updates from the committees.
 - a. Utilities, Transportation and Infrastructure – Andras Holzmann (Passaic), Kamal Saleh (Union), Byron Nicholas (Hudson): The Committee is looking for a member from Southern New Jersey to join the Committee or contribute by providing updates from the SJTPO or DVRPC. NJDOT is working with Office of Planning Advocacy to administer the Future In Transportation (NJFIT) program, which addresses quality of life issues. The NJDOT website also has useful information regarding the Liberty Corridor project and State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC). In April, US DOT announced details regarding the RAISE discretionary grants. Port funding is available from the US DOT and applications are due in June. The American Rescue Plan funds are available. FHWA is looking for comments as it updates and revises the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. NJ Transit is studying the Newark City bus system as well as investigating improvements to their bus garages and is looking for public comment.
 - b. Housing and Community Development – Matt Pisarski (Cumberland), Marcella Traina (Hudson): No report.
 - c. Open Space and the Environment – Katelyn Katzer (Somerset), Mark Villinger (Ocean), Emily Blackman (Mercer): SADC has draft soil protection standards and will present these standards at the afternoon meeting. USDA has a pilot program for renewable energy on farms, which is now in the early stages on development. S-3549/A-4843 would require forest stewardship plans on

certain lands over 25 acres if funded by Green Acres. On Earth Day, Green Acres will announce information regarding their planning incentive grant. After Earth Day, NJDEP will release more regulations from the NJ PACT.

- d. Statewide Planning and Smart Growth – Mark Villinger (Ocean), Matt Pisarski (Cumberland), Walter Lane (Somerset), Kevin Force (Hudson): The Committee met last week and discussed engaging with OPA on State Planning issues and the NJDEP regarding their initiatives.
- e. Legislative – Anthony Soriano (Morris): No report.
- f. Education and Technology – Katelyn Katzer (Somerset), Andrew Lloyd (Mercer): No report. Ranae mentioned both Kate and Andrew will assist with the Association’s scholarship program.

7. **Resolutions** – None

8. **Updates/Necessary Business** – None

Meeting Adjourned 12:08

Next meeting will be May 14, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Attendees:

<u>Registrant</u>	<u>County / Agency</u>
Ranae Fehr	Atlantic
Frances Brown	Atlantic
Ken Aloisio	Bergen
Tom Stanuikynas	Burlington
Barbara Ernst	Cape May
Scott Mullen	Cape May
Sharon Mollick	Cumberland
Matt Pisarski	Cumberland
Samuel Schroeder	Hudson
Kevin Force	Hudson
Marcella Traina	Hudson
Francesca Giarratana	Hudson
Byron Nicholas	Hudson
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon
Emily Blackman	Mercer
Andrew Lloyd	Mercer
Laurie Sobel	Middlesex
Kyle Degroot	Monmouth
Harriet Honigfeld	Monmouth
Amber Mallm	Monmouth
Sean Pizzio	Monmouth
Quinn Ruff	Monmouth
Ashlynn Shanahan	Monmouth
Katherine Coyle	Morris
Tony Soriano	Morris
Michael DiGiulio	Morris
Thomas Thorsen	Ocean

Nicole Leaf	Ocean
Mark Villinger	Ocean
Andras Holzmann	Passaic
Sal Presti	Passaic
Thomas D'Amico	Somerset
Paul Drake	Somerset
Nora Fekete	Somerset
Katelyn Katzer	Somerset
Anthony McCracken	Somerset
Walter Lane	Somerset
Maggie Faselt	Sussex
Autumn Sylvester	Sussex
Liza Betz	Union
Kamal Saleh	Union
Corey Tierney	Warren
Miles Owen	DVRPC
Linda Brennen	Monmouth Planning (Retired)
Gerry Scharfenberger	Assemblyman