

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL - EASTON, PA

Ordinance No.

SESSION 2019

Bill No. 756

Introduced by Tara M. Zrinski and Kevin Lott on April 18, 2019

Enacted

Effective

Title:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD.

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission created the "Northampton County Parks - 2010 Plan" document, which has been used to guide the implementation of activities for park, recreation and trail activities within Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 4, 2004, the Northampton County Council adopted Ordinance #423-2004, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE, WHICH ORDINANCE, ACCEPTED THE REPORT OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, CREATING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD AND ESTABLISHING ITS DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE" with the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative Guidelines which were also subsequently amended by the enactment of Ordinances #468-2007, #533-2011, #552 of 2012, 559-2012 and 582-2013; and

WHEREAS, on or about January 7, 2016, the Northampton County Council adopted Ordinance #603-2015, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING "THE LIVABLE LANDSCAPES" - AN OPEN SPACE PLAN PROGRAM FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE; and

WHEREAS, under adoption of Ordinance #603-2015 Northampton County Council directed that the Livable Landscapes Plan shall be used when implementing and/or conducting activities under the current 21st Century Open Space Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County, under adoption of Ordinance #603-2015, through the appropriate County Departments, Divisions and Authorities shall utilize guidelines and policies detailed in the Livable Landscapes Plan when taking actions associated with parks, recreation, trails and land preservation located in Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Advisory Board will be renamed the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board (Board) and shall serve as advisors to the County Council on issues presented to the Board to support implementation of the vision, goals and recommended

actions of the currently adopted County Open Space, Park and Recreation Plan(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL:

1. All "WHEREAS" Clauses are incorporated and adopted into this ordinance.
2. Any prior references to the name "Open Space Advisory Board," in any County Ordinances or Resolution shall now be named, designed and construed to be the "Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board."
3. The functions and powers of the Board shall be:
 - a. Serve in an advisory capacity to the County Council for the implementation of the vision, goals and recommended actions of the currently adopted County Open Space, Park and Recreation Plan(s);
 - b. Review current open space and parks and recreation programs and facilities in the County to determine additional needs and submit recommendations pertaining to open space, parks and recreation guidelines, policies, budgets, facilities or user fees, if any, to the County Council;
 - c. Review all open space, parks and recreation-related matters submitted to the Board;
 - d. Periodically review and, if necessary, suggest updates for the currently adopted County Open Space, Park and Recreation Plan(s);
 - e. Make recommendations to the Administration and County Council on providing funds for grant programs dedicated to open space, natural areas and parks and recreation initiatives;
 - f. Within the current County Council's goals, objectives and budget, perform the above-mentioned duties using the following criteria:
 - Promote environmental protection through acquisition and restoration of natural lands;
 - Promote maximum utilization of parks, recreation facilities and programs;

- Enhance the quality of the leisure life of all County residents through parks and recreation programs and services;
 - Provide to County residents as wide a variety of recreational opportunities as possible; and,
- g. Make recommendations to the County Council on rules and regulations that help protect, maintain and enhance the natural environment;
- h. This Board will not supersede actions of other Authorities, Boards and Commissions;
- i. Continue to exercise all the duties, responsibilities and obligations of the formerly named "Open Space Advisory Board" as designated in any County Ordinance and Resolution including but not limited to Ordinances 423-2004 and 603-2015.

This ordinance was advertised on the ___ day of _____ 2019, and was adopted by the Northampton County Council on the ___ day of _____ 2019.

ATTEST:

Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council

Ronald R. Heckman
County Council President

Lamont G. McClure
County Executive