

AGENDA  
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP MEETING

3 June 2021  
7:00 PM

Municipal Building  
349 Mountain Lake Road  
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

Sunshine Notice  
Flag Salute  
Roll Call

Reports:

New Jersey State Police  
Committeepersons  
Mayor  
Municipal Professionals  
Municipal Departments/Boards/Commissions

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes

Meeting of 6 May 2021

Unfinished Business

Mountain Lake 2021 Monitoring Program  
Public Hearing: ORD#006 – Stormwater Mgmt Amendments  
Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Commission  
Environmental Commission Appointments  
Computer Backup System Upgrade/Company  
Municipal Alliance

New Business

Municipal Audit 2020  
Summer Recreation Staffing  
Contract: Stone Springhouse Construction  
Municipal Website Security  
Municipal Code – Chapter 59, Fees  
Boat Launch Fee Collections  
Pflugfelder Support for IIMC Vice President Campaign

Resolutions

ABC Renewals 2021-2022  
Opposition NJ State Assembly and Senate Forest Management Bills

Adoption of Bill List

Public Comment

Executive Session

Adjournment

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A regularly scheduled meeting of the Township of Liberty was held in the Municipal Building, 349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows on 3 June 2021. The meeting was opened by Mayor John Inscho with Adequate Notice of Meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mayor John Inscho; Deputy Mayor Daniel Grover; Peter Karcher; David Rogers and Wayne Spangenberg

Also, Present: Roger Skoog, Municipal Attorney; and, Diane M Pflugfelder, Municipal Clerk

REPORTS

NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

Trooper Manley reported that they are addressing increased speeding through the municipality and telephone scams. He advised that residents keep their vehicles and homes secured.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

A pre-printed report was received from the Department of Public Works for May 2021 and placed on file.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Wayne Spangenberg to adopt the public session minutes of 6 May 2021 carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**MOUNTAIN LAKE 2021 MONITORING PROGRAM**

Larry Supp, Environmental Commission Chairperson, explained the phosphorous, iron, dissolved oxygen, temperature, algae growth and ph components of Mountain Lake. Discussion ensued on the consideration of a 2021 Mountain Lake weed harvesting program at the cost not to exceed \$10,000. Following continued discussion, a motion by Dan Grover authorizing the expenditure, not to exceed the Liberty Township share of \$3,337.50 to partner with Mountain Lake Community association Watershed Advisory group to contract with Princeton Hydro for water sample results to be analyzed by a certified lab carried.

Mayor Inscho advised that he and Senator Oroho discussed S.3618 and A.5778 which make supplemental appropriations of \$10 million for grants for certain lake management activities for recreation and conservation purposes. The Municipal Clerk was directed to forward a letter of interest to Senator Oroho regarding these Bills.

**PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #2021.006**

A motion by Dan Grover to open public hearing carried. A question and answer period followed. A motion by Dan grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

**RESOLUTION #2021.038  
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2021.006**

*WHEREAS*, said Ordinance entitled an “Stormwater Control, Chapter 87A, as Amended” was passed on first reading on 1 April 2021; and

*WHEREAS*, the public hearing of said Ordinance has been held as advertised and is now closed,

*BE IT RESOLVED* By the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the Ordinance entitled a “Stormwater Control, Chapter 87A, as Amended” be passed on second reading and final adoption.

Vote: aye - Rogers

aye - Grover

aye - Spangenberg

aye - Karcher

aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,

Mayor

**WARREN COUNTY MUNICIPAL AND CHARITABLE CONSERVANCY TRUST FUND COMMISSION**

The Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Commission requested a representative from Region 3 (Knowlton, Belvidere, Hope, Liberty and White) to a two-year term that is rotated among the aforementioned municipalities. The member’s responsibilities are to review applications and make recommendations for funding of grants for Farmland Preservation, Passive and Active Recreation Land, Open Space Preservation, and Historic Sites to the Board of County Commissioners of Warren County. A motion by Dan Grover appointing Mayor John Inscho to this position carried.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

The following mayoral appointments by Mayor Inscho for 2021 were adopted by the Township Committee;

Appointment of Doug Hankin to the Environmental Commission, expiration of term 31 December 2023

Appointment of Sarah Longo to the Environmental Commission, in the position vacated by Dan Kurela, expiration of term 31 December 2021

Appointment of Patrick O’Connor to the Environmental Commission, expiration of term 31 December 2023

Appointment of Diane Gonski to the Environmental Commission, Alternate #1, expiration of term 31 December 2021

Appointment of Michael Hoffman to the Environmental Commission, Alternate #2, expiration of term 31 December 2022

**COMPUTER BACKUP SYSTEM UPGRADE/COMPANY**

Five companies were contacted for IT quotes regarding a replacement backup system, new server, and IT service. All quotes are to be reviewed prior to the 1 July meeting for a decision at that meeting.

**MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE**

A motion by Dan Grover authorizing Mayor Inscho to execute the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle for Grant Year 2022 Form 1A and Form 1B carried.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT 2020

Following discussion on Audit Findings, a motion by Dan Grover to authorize the members of the Township Committee to execute the Group Affidavit Form and adopt the following Resolution carried.

NO PHOTO COPIES OF SIGNATURES GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM  
CERTIFICATION OF GOVERNING BODY

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
COUNTY OF WARREN  
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

We, members of the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, being duly sworn according to law, upon our oath depose and say:

- We are duly elected (or appointed) members of the Liberty Township Committee Members of the Township of Liberty in the County of Warren.
- In the performance of our duties, and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 50:30-6.5, we have familiarized ourselves with the contents of the Annual Municipal Audit filed with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6 for the year 2020.

We certify that we have personally reviewed and are familiar with, as a minimum, the sections of the Annual Report of Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations”

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John E Inscho, Mayor

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Daniel Grover, Deputy Mayor

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Wayne Spangenberg, Committeeperson

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David Rogers, Committeeperson

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Peter Karcher, Committeeperson

Resolution #2021.039

*WHEREAS*, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the Township Committee of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

*WHEREAS*, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2015 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 and a copy has been received by each member of the Township Committee; and

*WHEREAS*, R.S. 52:2788-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

*WHEREAS*, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 50:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the Township Committee of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the

State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations”; and

*WHEREAS*, the members of the Township Committee have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations”, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the township committee attached hereto; and

*WHEREAS*, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Township Committee no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

*WHEREAS*, all members of the Township Committee have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

*WHEREAS*, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local Township Committee to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 to wit:

“R.S. 52:27BB-52. A local officer or member of a local Township Committee who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the Director of Local Government Services, under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon convictions, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office”.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, That the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty hereby states that is has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this Resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

Vote: aye - Rogers

aye - Grover

aye - Spangenberg

aye - Karcher

aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,

Mayor

**MUNICIPAL WEBSITE SECURITY**

At the 6 May 2021 meeting a resident questioned the security of the Liberty Township website. Upon research Liberty Township was advised that Secure Socket Layer hosting services were available for \$75 with an additional \$5 per quarter. A motion by Dan Grover authorizing the expenditure of \$75 with an additional \$5 per quarter for SSL hosting services carried.

**MUNICIPAL CODE – CHAPTER 59, FEES**

It was stated that fees collected at the boat launch are to be used for Open Space purposes. These fees are currently collected by the Recreation Commission. Research and discussion carried to the next meeting.

**IIMC VICE PRESIDENT CAMPAIGN**

A motion by Dave Rogers authorizing Mayor Inscho to execute a letter of support for Diane M Pflugfelder, RMC/MMC in her candidacy for International Institute of Municipal Clerk Vice President carried.

**SUMMER STAFFING**

Following discussion of 2021 Beach budget it was determined that should the beach area be open to the public it would be on a limited schedule, possibly Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only. The first consideration is to resolve the HAB (Harmful Algae Bloom) condition.

A motion by Dan Grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

**RESOLUTION #2021.040**

**SALARY**

*WHEREAS*, Salary Ordinance #2021.002 established the salaries/wages, and compensation for certain employees of the Township of Liberty, Warren County.

*BE IT RESOLVED*, By the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, Warren County that the following named employee(s) shall be compensated for the year 2020 in the amounts designated below. All salaries are retroactive to 1 January 2020 unless otherwise noted:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Summer Beach Employees		
Alexa French	3 <sup>rd</sup> year lifeguard	16.00/hour
Kayla French	2 <sup>nd</sup> year lifeguard	15.50/hour
Gianna French	1 <sup>st</sup> year lifeguard	15.00/hour

Nicole Crowder	2 <sup>nd</sup> year lifeguard	15.50/hour
Joseph Crowder	1 <sup>st</sup> year lifeguard	15.00/hour
Laura Gruener	1 <sup>st</sup> year lifeguard	15.00/hour
Caroline Muscat	1 <sup>st</sup> year lifeguard	15.00/hour

Summer Recreation Employees		
Emilia Thompson	Head Counselor	20.50/hour
Grace Montgomery	1 <sup>st</sup> year counselor	12.00/hour
Emily Montgomery	1 <sup>st</sup> year counselor	12.00/hour
Amanda Montgomery	1 <sup>st</sup> year counselor	12.00/hour
Noelle Treanor	1 <sup>st</sup> year counselor	12.00/hour
Olivia Wechsler	1 <sup>st</sup> year counselor	12.00/hour
Hailey Pandorf	1 <sup>st</sup> year counselor	12.00/hour

Vote: aye - Spangenberg	
aye - Karcher	John Inscho,
aye - Grover	Mayor
aye - Rogers	
aye - Inscho	

RESOLUTIONS

A motion by Dan Grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2021.041  
ISSUANCE OF 2021-2022 LIQUOR LICENSES

*BE IT RESOLVED*, By the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the following licenses have made application for the renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption Licenses and Plenary Retail Distribution Licenses and having complied with all the terms of the Liberty Township Municipal Code, Chapter 39, Alcoholic Beverages, be renewed for the premises indicated by the address below with the respective names, for the term of one year from the first day of July 2021, to midnight, 30 June 2022;

House of Liquors LLC	514 Route 46 Oxford, New Jersey 07863 License # 2114.44.005.004 Fee: \$871.93
The Lodge at Mountain Lake	The Lodge at Mountain Lake 11 Lakeside Drive East Belvidere, NJ 07823 License #2114.33.007.008 Fee: \$871.93
J. P. Kelly's	J. P. Kelly's 43 Lake Just-It Road Great Meadows, NJ 07838 License #2114.33.004.003 Fee: \$871.93

Vote: aye - Grover	
aye - Spangenberg	John Inscho,
aye - Rogers	Mayor
aye - Karcher	
aye - Inscho	

A motion by Dan Grover to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2021.042  
Issuance of 2021-2022 Liquor License Term

*BE IT RESOLVED*, By the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the following licenses have made application for the renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption Licenses and Plenary Retail Distribution Licenses and having complied with all the terms of the Liberty Township Municipal Code, Chapter 39, Alcoholic Beverages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that License Holder: JARG Corporation, that this license is renewed pursuant to the Special Ruling of the State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control on 5 November 2020;

- Special Ruling Docket No. 08.20.268, Job No. 389120 to grant relief pursuant to NJSA 33:1-12.39 for the 2021-2022 license term.

JARG	7 Birch Drive Roseland, New Jersey 07068 License # 2114.33.008.008 Fee: \$871.93
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Vote: aye - Grover  
aye - Rogers  
aye - Karcher  
aye - Spangenberg  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

A motion by Wayne Spangenberg to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2021.043  
RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY  
AND SENATE FOREST MANAGEMENT BILLS A-4843/S-3549, A-4844/S-3550 AND A-4845/S-3548

*WHEREAS*, Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) approved pursuant to Section 3 of P.L. 2009, c. 256 (C.13:1L-31), are exempt from all regulations of the Highlands Regional Master Plan including logging and water body rules; and

*WHEREAS*, the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly have introduced bill A-4843/S-3549, which would require local governments to develop FSPs for all public forest land of 25 acres or more owned by the municipality that had been acquired for conservation and recreation under the Green Acres Program; and

*WHEREAS*, the FSPs would need to be researched, developed and submitted by a trained Forester and the Municipality, at the Municipality’s cost; and

*WHEREAS*, bill A-4843/S-3549 does not provide any funds for compliance and, therefore, amounts to an unfunded mandate; and

*WHEREAS*, the financial pressure caused by this unfunded mandate would force the Municipality to consider and institute one or more actions, each of which would have one or more negative impacts on the fiscal, environmental and social health of the community. Among those potential actions are, increasing taxes, reducing services, reducing Municipal employees and engaging heavily in the logging of our public land which would also expose our forest ecosystems to invasive plant and insect species, while risking degradation of our soil and water quality, which would force the Municipality to incur additional costs to provide clean water to residents and commercial entities within the Municipality; and

*WHEREAS*, non-profit land trusts that also manage land in the County of Warren for public enjoyment, that struggle to secure adequate funding for land stewardship would be at a loss to pay for the preparation and implementation of required FSPs which could result in bankruptcy and/or loss of their land; and

*WHEREAS*, the FSPs required under A-4843/S-3549 are not the appropriate approach for protecting New Jersey’s forests, nor enhancing the ecosystem services; clean water, clean air, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration they afford us. When written and reviewed by foresters these stewardship plans typically emphasize logging and the extraction of wood products, which is a drastic measure and is not appropriate management for most if not all public forests; and

*WHEREAS*, logging will reduce New Jersey’s ability to sequester carbon and make it more difficult to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reductions target in the NJ Global Warming Response Act; and

*WHEREAS*, logging will result in more stormwater runoff and more silt and pollution in our waterways while also causing environmental damage to wetlands, waterways, and forest habitats. Logging will limit access to public forested land; and

*WHEREAS*, logging will contribute to long-term degradation of local hiking trail networks by introducing new avenues for illegal off-road vehicles and ATVs to access public land, exacerbating a severe problem, which NJDEP and Park Police are already struggling to control; and

*WHEREAS*, logging would diminish the recreational experiences of both residents and tourists, the former could lose property values while the latter are important to the economic health of the County; and

*WHEREAS*, tourists of the County of Warren can easily opt to visit neighboring parks across the NY State line, where aggressive logging is not practiced.

*WHEREAS*, should the State of NJ or any other public or private entity provide funds for FSPs and eliminate the unfunded mandate issue, the County of Warren still opposes A-4843/S-3549 for all the other reasons stated herein; and

*WHEREAS*, the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly have introduced bill A-4844/S-3550, which provides that county approval is not required for FSPs. The bill would also prohibit a local government unit from enacting any ordinance, rule, or resolution that requires local government approval of an FSP or that conflicts with, prevents, or impedes the implementation of an FSP approved by the DEP. The bill would also provide that the DEP's rules would supersede any county ordinance adopted prior to the effective date of this bill; and

*WHEREAS*, Current law (Section 6 of P.L.2009, c.256 (C13:1L-34) states: No local government unit may enact, on or after the date of enactment of P.L.2009, c.256 (C. 13:1L-29 et al.), any ordinance, rule, or resolution, as appropriate, that conflicts with, prevents, or impedes the implementation of a forest stewardship plan approved pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2009, c.256 (C13:1L-31). A-4844/S-3550 extends these restrictions to any ordinance, rule, or resolution that requires local government approval of a forest stewardship plan. Therefore, this bill ensures that all forest stewardship plans required under companion bill A-4843/S-3549 are included in this set of already highly restrictive limits on municipalities and prevents them from having any control over NJDEP FSPs; and

*WHEREAS*, current law already restricts municipal oversight of NJDEP approved FSPs but has not impacted many municipalities as FSPs are not required and municipalities manage open space land through local ordinances. The enactment of A-4843/S-3549 will replace many ordinances with FSPs and many municipalities will lose total control over their forested lands and be unable to stop them from being logged; and

*WHEREAS*, there are no penalties associated with damages caused by FSPs. Replacing ordinances with FSPs would take away the authority of local governments to ensure private companies or individuals are not impacting environmentally sensitive areas or threatened or endangered species or creating disturbances close to stream corridors; and

*WHEREAS*, bill A-4844/S-3550 is a violation of home rule principles and the principles behind municipal land use laws throughout New Jersey's legislative and judicial history; and

*WHEREAS*, bill A-4845/S-3548 sets a Statewide goal of conducting prescribed burns on a minimum of 50,000 acres in the Pinelands area, and an additional 10,000 acres elsewhere in the State, every year; and

*WHEREAS*, bill A-4845/S-3548- requires burning about 6% of New Jersey's entire public forested land every year (In 17 years an area equivalent to all of New Jersey's public forests will have been burned); and

*WHEREAS*, there is no supporting scientific justification offered for burns of the magnitude required by bill A-4845/S-3548. Requiring a burn of 10,000 acres anywhere in the state outside the Pinelands is irresponsible, dangerous, costly, and wholly without merit; and

*WHEREAS*, decisions to conduct controlled forest burns of specific sizes should be based on scientific analysis of specific situations in specific areas each year and not predetermined for all time by law; and

*WHEREAS*, burning forests increases greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, both of which are already significant problems throughout New Jersey; and

*WHEREAS*, the Prescribed Burns Act does not properly address air pollution and it limits liability if these fires get out of control; and

*WHEREAS*, controlled burns are expensive to execute and bill A-4845/S-3548 also causes additional expenditures by requiring all relevant State agencies involved in environmental planning and land use management to incorporate the yearly minimum burns into all plans, programs, and surveys.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the County Commissioners of Warren County, in the interest of protecting its residents, businesses and institutions, and controlling its public open spaces to optimize its value as a source of recreation and public enjoyment, as of April 7, 2021, strongly opposes New Jersey State Assembly and Senate Forest Management Bills A-4843/S-3549, A-4844/S-3550 and A-4845/S-3548.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey Phil Murphy, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, State Senator Bob Smith, State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, State Senator Steven V. Oroho, Senator Michael J. Doherty, State Assemblyman Parker Space, Harold J. Wirths and John DiMaio, New Jersey

Forest Watch ([newjerseyforestwatch@gmail.com](mailto:newjerseyforestwatch@gmail.com)), Warren County Municipalities, League of New Jersey Municipalities, and NJ Advance Media.

Vote: aye - Karcher  
aye - Rogers  
aye - Spangenberg  
aye - Grover  
aye - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion by Peter Karcher to adopt the following Resolution carried.

RESOLUTION #2021.044  
PAYMENT OF BILLS

*RESOLVED*, That the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, does hereby authorize the Finance Department to pay all vouchers when properly endorsed and approved by at least 3/5 majority of the Township Committee in the amount of \$517,853.99

Vote: aye - Rogers  
aye - Grover  
aye - Spangenberg  
aye - Karcher  
absent - Inscho

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John Inscho,  
Mayor

PUBLIC COMMENT was opened at 8:09 pm.

Keith Earwood – Mr. Earwood inquired when outstanding issues from the wall project would be completed on his property.

Larry Supp – Mr. Supp expressed concern that Mountain Lake monitoring results are made public prior to notification to the municipality. He will address the information distribution

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion by Mayor Inscho to adjourn the meeting carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Diane M Pflugfelder RMC/MMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator  
Minutes Approved 1 July 2021

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