



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Keith Goertz
Regional Director
NYS Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Rose Harvey
Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks,
Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Jessica Ottney Mahar
Policy Director
The Nature Conservancy
New York

Hon. Kathy Sheehan
Mayor
City of Albany

Hon. Paula A. Mahan
Supervisor
Town of Colonie

Hon. Peter Barber
Supervisor
Town of Guilderland

Hon. Daniel P. McCoy
County Executive
County of Albany

Harvey Jay Alexander, Ph.D.
Citizen Representative

John Brust
Citizen Representative

Nancy Pierson
Citizen Representative

Steven Rice, Ph.D.
Citizen Representative

Christopher A. Hawver
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission
Albany Pine Bush Technical Committee and Partners

FROM: Christopher A. Hawver, Executive Director

CC: Keith Goertz, NYSDEC Region 4 Director and Board Chair

DATE: June 8, 2017

RE: **June 15, 2017 Commission Meeting #111 @ the Discovery Center**

Attached is the agenda for the **Thursday, June 15, 2017, 9:30 am** meeting of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission. The meeting will be held in the Pine Barrens Room of the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed agenda, please contact me directly at 690-2765. We thank you for your continued support of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and look forward to seeing you.

Emailed Packet Distribution:

Commission

Keith Goertz (NYSDEC)
Commissioner Rose Harvey (NYSOPRHP)
Jessica Ottney Mahar (TNC)
Hon. Kathy Sheehan (City of Albany)
Hon. Peter Barber (Guilderland)
Hon. Paula A. Mahan (Colonie)
Hon. Daniel P. McCoy (Albany County)
Harvey J. Alexander, PhD (Citizen member)
John Brust (Citizen member)
Nancy Pierson (Citizen member)
Steven K. Rice, PhD. (Citizen member)

Technical Committee

Richard Georgeson (NYSDEC)
Nancy Stoner (NYSOPRHP)
Brad Glass (City of Albany)
Donald Csaposs (Guilderland)
Mike Lyons (Colonie)
Laura DeGaetano (Albany Co.)
Paul Russell

Additional

Alane Ball Chinian (NYSOPRHP representative)
Christopher Spencer (City of Albany representative)
Mike McLaughlin (Albany County representative)
Joseph Giebelhaus (City of Albany)
Loretta Simon, Esq. (NYSOAG)
Karl Parker (NYSDEC)
Lisa Anthony (APBPC Finance & Operations)

Agenda Only

Peter Innes
Joseph LaCivita

Angelika Stewart
Rich Ostrov, Esq.

Mary Millus
Karen Terbush



**ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE COMMISSION
MEETING #111**

**Thursday, June 15, 2017, 9:30 am
Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center Pine Barrens Room**

- 9:30** 1) Introductions – Keith Goertz
2) Consider minutes of March 16, 2017 meeting
- 9:35** 3) Comments from the public
- 9:45** 4) Reports:
a) Commission Chair – Keith Goertz
b) Board Members
c) Executive Director – Chris Hawver
d) Technical Committee/Project Review – Neil Gifford
e) Financial report – Lisa Anthony
- 10:15** 5) Action Items:
a) Consider updated FY 2017/18 operating budget
b) Consider updated Policies & Procedures manual
c) Consider public authority compliance documentation
- 10:30** 6) Presentations:
a) FY 2016/17 audit – Wojeski & Co.
b) Annual report on investments – KeyBank
c) 3M student scientists climate research – Dr. Alan Fiero and Farnsworth students
- 11:15** 7) Executive Session
- 11:30** 8) Other Business and Adjourn:
a) Future meetings at the Discovery Center:
· September 21, 2017, 9:30 am
· December 21, 2017, 9:30 am
· March 15, 2018, 9:30 am

The Mission of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission is to protect and manage the unique and endangered natural communities and species of the Albany Pine Bush, for ecological benefits and controlled and appropriate public recreational and educational use.

Globally Rare, Nationally Significant, Locally Distinct

APPROVED



ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 16, 2017
Meeting #110

Hosted by the Discovery Center

Meeting Minutes

Present - DEC Representative Keith Goertz, OPRHP representative Alane Ball Chinian, town of Colonie representative Mike Lyons, town of Guilderland representative Don Csaposs, Albany County representative Mike McLaughlin, TNC-NY representative Jessica Ottney Mahar, John Brust, and APBPC Executive Director Chris Hawver.

- 1) **Introductions.** Keith Goertz welcomed everyone and introduced commission members.
- 2) **Minutes.** John Brust moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Alane Ball Chinian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes.
- 3) **Comments from the public.** Richard Naylor from the Friends of the Pine Bush Community noted that the group's *Ticket to Ride* program funded transportation for 689 kids to visit the Discovery Center last year. The group's land protection campaign also supported the acquisition expenses on a Pine Bush parcel that the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy recently closed on. The land will provide a valuable buffer and linkage to other protected preserve lands.
- 4) **Reports**
 - a) Commission Chair – Keith Goertz noted that the annual landfill habitat restoration work plan and monitoring was approved for the upcoming year. Also, DEC is currently working to acquire six parcels, three owned by TNC and three owned by the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy.
 - b) Board Members – None.
 - c) Executive Director – Chris Hawver noted that the new temporary exhibit highlighting the National Natural Landmark designation recently opened at the end of January. The exhibit features an Augmented Sandbox, which combines an X-box and LCD projector that highlight the unique nature and contours of the preserve's sand dunes. The DEC Region 4 attorney who had been handling the Commission's legal work transferred out of the area and the Commission now has engagement letters with three law firms to undertake legal work on behalf of the Commission. The Commission recently held two public information sessions on the habitat restoration work being undertaken. About 30 people attended the two sessions. The Commission also held a "chat with staff" hour last night for the public to drop in and speak with Commission staff. Three people attended the session. The Commission is planning to hold the sessions quarterly during evenings and weekends. Since the last Commission meeting, 1,843 people participated in

Commission educational programs. Chris welcomed Steve Jackson, Tyler Mitchell and Matt Rung as seasonal staff.

d) Technical Committee – Neil Gifford handed out the quarterly report and noted that the TC met once since the last Commission meeting due to the relatively few proposed development projects. Neil noted that the landfill habitat work plan was all but finished. For the first time ever, a prescribed burn is planned for the restored area of the former mobile home park, adjacent to the landfill. Neil represented the Commission at a public meeting regarding the city of Albany’s rezone plan. The TC reviewed one project proposal in the town of Guilderland and three in the town of Colonie. The 2017 Management Plan Update has been finalized. Two sets of public comments were received on the draft update. The Commission held two public meetings and one public hearing on the draft update.

e) Financial Report – Lisa Anthony gave an overview of the Commission’s financial activities, including a statement of net assets and investment summary for the period ending Jan. 31, 2017. Total revenues and expenses both came in under budgeted levels for a total net revenue of \$202,194. Total net assets increased by \$345,787 over the previous year. Total investment funds increased by \$95,476 for the reporting period.

5) **Action Items**

a) Acceptance of Town of Colonie Dedication of 157+/- acres

This item accepts the dedication of seven parcels of land comprising 157+/- acres by the town of Colonie for management, custody and control by the Commission to be managed as specified by the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Plan/FEIS and/or its updates.

Motion to approve the action item made by Alane Ball Chinian. Don Csaposs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Management Plan Update acceptance of completion

This item accepts the Management Plan Update for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve as complete.

Motion to approve the action item made by Mike Lyons. Mike McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6) **Presentations**

a) Special recognition: Tony Wilkinson

Chris noted that Tony Wilkinson left TNC to become the DEC’s Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Tony started with TNC in 1980 and has been on the Commission for over 12 years. He was instrumental in 14 land acquisition projects in the

preserve. Chris thanked Tony for his years of dedication and presented him with a framed photograph of a Pine Bush sunset.

b) Assessing the success of habitat restoration: Can we get there from here? - Jeff Corbin, Union College

Humans dominate 75 percent of the earth and only 10 percent of the earth is currently protected. As this amount of protected land is not sufficient for full functioning, healthy ecosystems, there is a great need to restore the degraded ecosystems of the earth. The Pine Bush can serve as a model for this restoration. Pine Bush restoration efforts include the removal of locust trees, excavation of the locust roots, planting of native grasses and prescribed burns. The hypothesis of this research is to determine if the Pine Bush restoration work has been successful in returning the ecosystem to a fully functioning native pine barrens. The research found that the current restoration efforts have not been fully successful in restoring the ecosystem functions to that of a native pine barrens ecosystem at this point. The restored areas have more grass species and not yet enough scrub oaks and heath shrubs. The research also found that plant species diversity in restored areas is still lower than in native areas. The research indicated that the soil chemistry needs to be altered over time, additional key vegetative species need to be planted and symbiotic fungi needs to be present to have the restored ecosystem function more like that of a native pine barrens. In conclusion, restored sites are much more ecologically significant than they were when dominated by invasive black locust trees, and that habitat restoration takes time – it's a process, not a one-time event.

7) **Other Business**

Future Meetings at the Discovery Center

- June 15, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
- September 21, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
- December 21, 2017, 9:30 a.m.



TO: Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (APBPC)
APBPC Technical Committee
FROM: Christopher Hawver, Executive Director
DATE: June 8, 2017
RE: **June 2017 Pine Bush (PB) Update**

Since March, Commission staff, partners, interns and volunteers have continued progress toward a number of exciting Pine Bush projects. Below are highlights from this spring:

Education and Outreach

Discovery Center (DC) update.

Visitor Services Staff Changes: Sarah Reilly joined the Visitor Services team this May as a part-time Visitor Services Associate. Sara graduated with an Associate's Degree from Hudson Valley Community College with a major in Environmental Science. She is a great addition to the team!

Civilian Response to Active Shooter Presentation: This spring we hosted the Albany County Sheriff's Department to present on the topic of civilian responses to active shooters. Staff from both the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission and The Nature Conservancy attended the event and gained important knowledge in how to respond in the event of an active shooter on the premises.

Facility: Ongoing maintenance of the DC continued this spring with minor repairs to plumbing and front door locks and monitoring our power supply to the building after a series of brown outs and power failures in the past few months. Several projects are planned for the summer including the repair of a control panel for the lighting system in the DC.

Summer Exhibit: After a lively hike in the beautiful summer sun, Albany Pine Bush Preserve visitors will welcome our 'chilled out' exhibit in the Discovery Center. In the Karner Classroom, guests can browse our nature library, play a science-inspired game, investigate biofacts and objects from the preserve, test drive our new Discovery Agents App, visit with one of our live turtles and create a memento of their experience here. As a respite from the summer heat, this multi-sensory exhibit will be a refreshing experience.

Tell Me A Story Exhibit: The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the fabrication and installation of the Tell Me a Story Exhibit received three bids. We are in the final selection process for the hire of an exhibit fabricator and work should begin on the exhibit this summer.

Programs. We have had a very busy spring with participation in school programming totaling more than 3,000 students engaged in a variety of programs including *Help a Habitat* and *Discover the Pine Bush*. Through our public programs, we offered a variety of opportunities to learn about the Albany Pine Bush including our monthly Science Lecture Series, Woodcock Walk, Pond Trek and Citizen Science programs. Be sure to join us this summer for a program in the Pine Bush!

Teen Science Café: The APBPC is excited to announce a new partnership with the Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady, NY. (MiSci). As of April 2017, the APBPC joined with MiSci as part of a nation-wide web of organizations that offer Teen Science Café programs. Teen Science Cafes are:

"A series of free, fun, out-of-school events where teens get to socialize over food and refreshments and have the opportunity to talk with local scientists and engineers about current cutting-edge ideas in science and technology, all in a relaxed and informal setting." (The Teen Science Café Network)

Environmental education interns.

Our first summer Environmental Education Intern, Amanda Doucette started May 24, 2017. She comes to us from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts where she will be a senior this year. She already has been busy observing and teaching education programs, helping with preparations and clean up, taking a variety of trainings, and will help with our upcoming Exploration Station.

New app offers visitors a self-guided experience on Pine Bush hiking trails. The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is now a mission site in the Agents of Discovery mobile app. This educational game, geared toward ages 4-15, provides learning opportunities in the form of in-game challenges. The challenges are located along hiking trails in the preserve and appear on a player's mobile device when they approach the challenge locations. Players learn about the Pine Bush through the pre- and post-challenge information, and the challenges themselves often require players to observe their physical environment for information and clues.

Community Engagement

Website progress. The website team has been hard at work taking inventory of the current website. From there they went through and created a new version of the site's organization, eliminating redundancies, putting like content together and making suggestions on labels, general navigation structure and key wayfinding devices. Getting to the essence of the APBPC's mission and personality, visually as well as in words, will be the next key part of this project.



Promoting the APBP. The APBPC continues to reach out to the Capital District and beyond in many different ways to convey the message of our *globally rare, nationally significant, and locally distinct* destination. In the past three months, the Community Engagement Coordinator, Ericka Small, has participated in several community events and partnerships including: Empire State Parks and Trail Day, Girls STEM Day at UAlbany, the Mohawk Hudson Watershed Symposium, The Center for Gravity, St. Rose College community partnership collaboration, Town of Colonie Family Fair, The Albany Capital Center Opening, Department of Transportation Employee Community Information Fair, APBP Earth Day participant engagement, Albany Business Review Social, Town of Colonie Conservation Day, Excelsior College Community Information Day, the Pine Bush Neighborhood Association annual meeting and the Albany Chamber of Commerce Women of Excellence festivities. Ericka also assisted with Friends of the Pine Bush Community annual meeting in May and has been active as an Ambassador with the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce. This is a result of direction provided by the Vision Strategy and Audience Development Plan.

In the past few months, the APBPC has also been at Excelsior College and was seen in the Times Union print edition, through WAMC on-air promotions, on-air ads around the programs Nature and Nova on WMHT and with more than 10,000 Lupine Fest post cards direct mailed to neighbors. In addition, the APBPC has increased its monthly e-news recipients to more than 5,700 and social media following with over 15,000 followers on Facebook and a new Instagram account with 300 followers.

Lupine Fest. On May 20, 2017, over 1,500 people joined the APBPC at the DC for our annual community extravaganza. At "Lupine Fest 2017: Take a Walk on the Wild Side" visitors experienced a celebration of local wildlife at the Capital Region's *globally rare, nationally significant, and locally distinct* Albany Pine Bush. Guests enjoyed live animal shows, wildlife workshops, nature walks, hands-on activities, music by the WhipperSnappers and B95.5, games, crafts, vendors, food trucks and more! Several community partners also tabled and offered interactive wildlife activities. The event was free to the public and staff made the day a great success for all who participated. The surveys handed out to visitors, vendors and volunteers are offering great revues of the event.

Conservation Science



SUNY Albany.

In April, Conservation Director, Neil Gifford, provided an invited lecture, Fire Ecology: The science of wildland fire & its implications for the restoration of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve to a SUNYA class on weather, climate change and society. Neil also provided the keynote address at the May 20 SUNY-Albany Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Science undergraduate commencement ceremony.

Fire science. The North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange (NAFSE) is one of 18 Joint Fire Science Program information centers across the nation that promote communication between fire scientists and fire managers. As a member of its advisory committee, NAFSE invited Conservation Director, Neil Gifford, to highlight Commission conservation at several regional fire science events. In February, he presented at the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Council and NAFSE workshop, Burning Issue: Sparking effective communication about prescribed fire. In April, he moderated a 4-talk session on Fire-Adapted Ecosystems at the Northeast Natural History Conference. He also presented a paper there, coauthored with Communications Outreach Director Wendy Craney, titled Rx Fire and Constituency Engagement in a Globally-rare Urban Pine Barrens. On May 4, he attended a workshop and field trip to the Central Pine Barrens of Long Island (NY) where he presented Pine Barrens Conservation and Management in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and participated in a panel discussion with other fire scientists and managers from throughout the northeast. On May 25, 2017, Neil presented a NAFSE webinar titled, Conservation Measures in the Albany Pine Bush. The webinar, <https://www.firesciencenorthatlantic.org/past-events-webinars/>, summarized the Commission's monitoring programs and provided a preview for the 3-day NAFSE, Fire and Fuels Monitoring Workshop, hosted in the Preserve June 6-8. This hands-on workshop used several recently managed sites to introduce the 40 participants to tools/techniques for measuring fuels and wildland fire effects.



Advanced bird banding workshop. The APBPC hosted a 2-day advanced bird banding workshop at the DC on May 17-18, 2017. State Ornithologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MADFW), Andrew Vitz, PhD, and Neil Gifford, both licensed USGS Master Bird Banders, led the workshop. The class of 14 included APBPC staff and volunteers, and several NYSDEC Wildlife Technicians. Participants learned how to use molt limits to age birds; amazingly, in only 2 mornings they processed 118 birds from 28 species in a small 20-acre section of Karner Barrens East. One of the highpoints was recapturing a prairie warbler we equipped with a geolocator in 2016. The workshop is part of a growing collaboration on inland pine barrens conservation with the MADFW. A team of MADFW scientists toured the preserve with Neil Gifford and Conservation Biologist Steve Campbell in April.



Dr. Vitz, right, and workshop participants examine molt limits on a second-year male indigo bunting.



Preserve Ecologist & Entomologist, Amanda Dillon, removes a prairie warbler with a geolocator from a mist net.

Beetle monitoring in cooperation with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The APBPC is teaming up with the NYSDEC to document the community of native Pine engraver beetles in the preserve and search for the southern pine beetle (SPB). SPB is a southern U.S. native that has spread north as a result of climate change. SPB is killing pitch pine stands in the New Jersey Pinelands and Long Island (NY) Central Pine Barrens; it has been documented as far north as Ulster County (NY) and western Massachusetts. Research shows improving forest health by thinning and burning pitch pine stands increases resistance to SPB. Traps were set in several sites that have received various management including fire and forest thinning.



NYSDEC Forest Health Research Scientist, Jessica Cancelliere, installs a pheromone baited funnel trap in the preserve. Commission staff collect trap samples every two weeks and send them to DEC.

Prairie Warblers during the non-breeding season. Conservation science staff continue to collaborate with scientists at University of Massachusetts at Amherst and US Forest Service Northeast Research Station on a project to understand the ecology of Prairie Warblers during the eight months of the year when they are not on the breeding grounds. Specifically, we are interested in learning about migration phenology and locations of staging areas, migratory pathways, and overwinter grounds. To gather this information, Steve Campbell with the help of Neil Gifford, Field Ecologist and Entomologist Amanda Dillon, and Conservation Science Technician Tom Williams fitted 25 prairie warblers in the preserve with geolocators and colorbands in June 2016. Since their deployment, the geolocators have been collecting ambient light data every 10 minutes; these data will be converted into times of sunrise, sunset and solar noon, which can be used to determine latitude and longitude of birds each day. Of the 25 birds with geolocators, we have resighted 11 (44%) in the preserve this year. We recaptured 10 of those birds; 9 still had their geolocators attached and we were able to recover data from 8. We also have been collecting claw and blood samples from these birds to determine whether they overwintered in wet (high quality) or dry (low quality) habitat. By linking winter habitat quality to migration behavior, we can better understand how the effects of winter habitat use carry over to territory establishment and habitat use on the breeding grounds.

2017 Research & monitoring. The conservation science team is happy to welcome 2017 seasonal staff, interns, and volunteers. Tom Williams, an active Hudson Mohawk Bird Club member, is returning as our Avian Field Technician. Sofia Furlong is back with us for her second year, this time leading our seasonal team as the Conservation Science Technician II. Zack Davis, Conservation Science Technician I, who was last year's SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) Honors Student Intern, and Audrey Moylan, our 2016 College of Saint Rose intern, join her. Madison Hand, Conservation Science Technician I, is an undergraduate from SUNY-ESF and Rebecca Rolnick, our 2017 SUNY-ESF Honors Student Intern complete this year's team. All have already been hard at work counting Karner blues, banding birds, surveying lupine, monitoring hydrology and investigating our mammal populations through wildlife camera trapping.

Bee ID workshop. Amanda Dillon recently attended a Bee ID workshop conducted by Bryan Danforth, PhD and his lab from the Department of Entomology at Cornell University. The NY Natural Heritage Program and the NYSDEC organized the workshop as part of creating a pollinator conservation plan for New York State. The class came to the Albany Pine Bush to sample bees and participants were impressed with the quality of our habitat and its potential for hosting rare bee species. Dillon hopes this is the beginning of many mutual partnerships to continue to study the bee community of the Albany Pine Bush.

Fire Management

Steven J. Pyne. Fire Management & GIS Specialist, Tyler Briggs, and Neil Gifford had the honor-of-a-lifetime when they were asked to host a visit by Stephen J. Pyne. Dr. Pyne has written over 30 books, mostly on the history and management of wildland fire in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Europe. Currently a Regents Professor at the Arizona State University School of Life Sciences, Dr. Pyne visited the preserve conducting research for his latest book exploring contemporary wildland fire (1960-present) around the nation; the latest volume will focus on the northeastern U.S. and include an essay about the APBPC's fire management program.



APBPC Fire Management & GIS Specialist, Tyler Briggs and Arizona State University Regents Professor, Dr. Stephen Pyne tour a recent burn in the preserve.

Training. The APBPC partnered with NYSDEC Region 4 Forest Rangers to host 3 trainings this spring. The preserve hosted two annual fireline refreshers (RT-130) on 4/1 and 4/3/2017 certifying 80 people (the largest number by any region in NYS). The APBPC also held the introduction to wildland firefighting certification (S-130/S-190) on 4/8/2017. Twenty-one (21) local people interested in volunteering at the preserve and participating in the NYS wildfire program, took the courses. The APBPC fire crew also participated in NYSDEC/State Police Helicopter Bucket Training on 4/27/2017.

Prescribed fire. The APBPC has conducted five (5) controlled burns totaling 74 acres in 2017. We burned 'Fido' on 4/9/2017 (8 acres); 'Asphalt' on 4/10/2017 (7 acres); 'Dorsum' and 'Chubb' on 4/24/2017 (27 acres); 'Beast' on 5/4/2017 (10 acres); 'Field' on 5/17/2017 (21 acres); and 'West Overlook' on 5/18/2017 (1 acre). Several regional partners assisted the APBPC for the burns (USFWS, TNC, Stanford Heights FD and NYSDEC) in addition to APBPC Staff and Volunteers.



and the NY State Parks with a burn at 'Ganondagan State Historic Site' on 5/16/2017 (20 acres).

Assisting partners. APBPC fire crew has assisted several regional partners with seven (7) burns totaling 528 acres this spring. They assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service with a burn at 'The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge' on 4/13/2017 (270 acres); the National Park Service with a burn at 'Saratoga National Battlefield' on 4/18/2017 (70 acres); the NYSDEC/USDA with a burn at 'Big Flats Plant Materials Center' on 5/3/2017 (22 acres); the NYSDEC with burns at Rocky Point, NY 'Whiskey Field' and 'Currans Field' on 5/8/2017 and 5/9/2017 (32 and 81 acres); The Nantucket Land Bank with a burn at 'Smooth Hummocks' 5/11/2017 (33 acres);

Federal grant funding. The Fire Management Program is being rewarded \$150,000 in additional funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant to assist with costs associated with fuel reduction in the reserve. Tyler Briggs and Neil Gifford prepared the successful application.

Stewardship

Wildlife habitat restoration successes and slow-downs. Habitat restoration is an ongoing, long-term commitment. Several of the APBPC's larger efforts have been completed this spring including 80 acres of tree thinning along Rapp Road near Rensselaer Lake. Portions of this highly visible site are planted and already turning green, especially with the wet spring of 2017. Native grasses and wildflowers will fill the site quickly over the next several years. Shrubs and trees will be added over the next 3-5 years as the site stabilizes.

BEFORE



AFTER



Invasive black locust tree removal on 60 acres nears completion. Non-native black locust trees have slowly been becoming less and less common in the preserve since 1999 when large-scale removal began. Of the original 800 acres of black locust trees, approximately 300 acres remain. Part of this most recent 60 acre project involved meeting with preserve neighbors to help promote a better understanding of the goals of the project and be better in tune with sensitivity to the neighbors. Restoration planting is nearly complete in these areas.



Turning forests into pine barrens on 260 acres. In the absence of regular fires many acres of the Pine Bush have succumbed to succession and growing into forests. Thinning of the forest trees was the goal on these 260 acres and the effect was dramatic. Pine barrens seemed to “pop” out of the forest as thousands of trees were removed and the landscape was opened up to look similar to what it looked like a century ago.

BEFORE



AFTER



While this project got a late start, significant progress was made until the wet weather began in April and May. Most of the work is completed but repairing the skid trails is still on hold until the rain ends and the ground can dry out. This work is expected to be completed by the end of June 2017.

New trailhead kiosks coming Fall 2017. Staff, working with a graphic artist, have been designing new kiosks for the preserve's eleven (and soon to be twelve) trailheads. The current kiosks have served very well for the last 20 years but now need replacing. The kiosks have three panels and present visitor information in a new and fresh way, helping visitors get oriented and understand some of the things that make the Albany Pine Bush Preserve unique and interesting.



Field season 2017. The 2017 field season has begun! Repeat seasonal employees, Travis Darrin and Skyler Jordan, began in early April and have jumped right in with restoration planting. Plenty of trail work needs to be completed in the short term, as well as native seed collection and invasive species work right around the corner.

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission

Statement of Financial Activities

April 30, 2017

REVENUE	YEAR-TO-DATE			APPROVED
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>% BUDGET</u>	<u>2017-2018 BUDGET</u>
Dues & Contributions	73	100	73%	69,700
Government Grants & Contracts	230,000	235,000	98%	2,425,000
Mitigation Fees	-	-	0%	380,000
Lease Revenue	14,126	14,126	100%	171,632
Other Revenue	2,647	3,000	88%	26,000
TOTAL REVENUE	246,846	252,226	98%	3,072,332
EXPENSES				
Personnel & Fringe	154,882	158,000	98%	1,826,759
Travel & Training	706	1,000	71%	59,530
Contractual	49,572	50,000	99%	590,243
Communications	5,851	6,000	98%	141,165
Occupancy	3,223	3,300	98%	73,435
Supplies & Equipment	9,721	10,000	97%	176,190
Other Expenses	20,784	21,000	99%	104,573
TOTAL EXPENSES	244,739	249,300	98%	2,971,895
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	2,107	2,926		100,437

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission
Statement of Net Assets
April 30, 2017

ASSETS	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 746,615	\$ 947,215
Conservation & Land Reserves	50,000	50,000
Grants Receivable	293,016	63,016
Accounts Receivable	58,007	58,060
Inventory	20,110	20,110
Prepaid Expenses	-	46,918
Investments	6,600,609	6,546,361
Capital Assets	4,172,089	4,172,089
Deferred Outflows from NYS Retirement	799,283	799,283
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,739,729</u>	<u>\$ 12,703,052</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 181,461	\$ 201,137
Deferred Revenue	63,206	63,206
Net Pension Liability NYS Retirement	930,630	930,630
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 1,175,297</u>	<u>\$ 1,194,973</u>
NET ASSETS		
Invested in Capital Assets, net of debt	\$ 4,172,089	\$ 4,172,089
Reserved	36,484	36,484
Unreserved	7,355,859	7,299,506
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 11,564,432</u>	<u>\$ 11,508,079</u>

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission
Investment Summary
4/30/2017

Reserve Fund

Beginning Balance	3,339,849.05
Deposits	-
Withdrawals	-
Expenses	-
Income	5,044.19
Unrealized Gains/Losses	15,079.10
Ending Balance	3,359,972.34
Annualized Rate	0.60%

Discovery Center Endowment

Beginning Balance	101,096.76
Deposits	-
Withdrawals	-
Expenses	-
Income	76.12
Unrealized Gains/Losses	988.55
Ending Balance	102,161.43
Annualized Rate	1.05%

Endowment

Beginning Balance	3,105,415.07
Deposits	-
Withdrawals	-
Expenses	-
Income	3,487.07
Unrealized Gains/Losses	29,573.32
Ending Balance	3,138,475.46
Annualized Rate	1.06%

APPROVED

Donald J. Goss

ACTION ITEM A

APBPC 6/15/17

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Updated 2017/2018 Operating Budget

Be it resolved,

That the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission ("Commission") approves the updated operating budget for fiscal year 2017/2018 attached hereto, for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018, based on the appropriation of \$2.625 million from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to support the Commission's FY 2017/2018 Annual Plan.

APPROVED



ACTION ITEM B

APBPC 6/15/17

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Policies and Procedures Manual update

Be it resolved,

That the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission ("Commission") accepts the updated Policies and Procedures Manual, with the changes attached hereto, which apply to all employees of the Commission.

APPROVED



ACTION ITEM C

APBPC 6/15/17

Public Authority Compliance Documentation

Be it resolved,

That the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (“Commission”) approves the following documents as required by the NYS Public Authorities Law:

1. Assessment of Internal Controls for FY 2016/17
2. Annual Report on Prompt Payment Policy for FY 2016/17
3. PARIS Annual Procurement Report for FY 2016/17:
<https://www.albanypinebush.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Procurement-Report-16-17.pdf>
4. PARIS Annual Report financial summary