

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: September 14, 2017

RE: September 21, 2017 Commission Meeting #112 @ the Discovery Center

Attached is the agenda for the **Thursday, September 21, 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 & Mary Millus (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 Angelika Stewart Karen Terbush

Joseph LaCivita Rich Ostrov, Esq.



ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE COMMISSION MEETING #112

Thursday, September 21, 2017, 9:30 am Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center Pine Barrens Room

9:30	1) Introductions – Keith Goertz
	2) Consider minutes of June 15, 2017

- 2) Consider minutes of June 15, 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 election of officers
 - b) Consider dedication of Guilderland property
- **10:30** 6) Presentations:
 - a) External education partnerships Erin Kinal
 - b) Cornell University social science S. Naiman & S. Allred
- 11:30 8) Other Business and Adjourn:
 - a) Future meetings at the Discovery Center:
 - December 21, 2017, 9:30 am
 - March 15, 2018, 9:30 am
 - June 21, 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

ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, June 15, 2017 Meeting #111

Hosted by the Discovery Center

Meeting Minutes

<u>Present</u> - DEC Representative Keith Goertz, OPRHP representative Alane Ball Chinian, town of Colonie representative Mike Lyons, town of Guilderland Supervisor Peter Barber, Albany County representative Mike McLaughlin, city of Albany representative Brad Glass, TNC-NY representative Jessica Ottney-Mahar, John Brust, Harvey Alexander, Nancy Pierson, Steve Rice, and APBPC Executive Director Chris Hawver.

- 1) Introductions. Keith Goertz welcomed everyone and introduced commission members.
- 2) Minutes. Mike Lyons moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Jessica Ottney-Mahar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes.
- Comments from the public. Darwin Roosa from the Friends of the Pine Bush Community noted that the group supported the Lupine Fest with a welcome table, continued to reimburse school districts for bus trips to the preserve, and purchased \$1,080 worth of software for the Commission which would have cost the Commission \$20,000 if the Commission had to purchase the software.

4) Reports

- a) <u>Commission Chair</u> Keith Goertz noted that there are currently three parcels owned by TNC that are being appraised in anticipation of purchase by DEC. In addition, there are three other parcels owned by the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy that are being evaluated for potential purchase by DEC.
- b) Board Members None.
- c) Executive Director Chris Hawver welcomed new Commission staff member Patty McLaughlin. Chris noted that Erin Kinal had discovered some old grave stones of the Truax family in the preserve dating from the late 1700s to the early 1800s. The Truax family ran a tavern along the historic Kings Highway. More than 1,500 attended the annual Lupine Fest thanks to the great weather. New way finding directional banners have been hung along Washington Ave. (Extension?) to help guide people to the preserve. More than 1,300 students participated in school programs at the discovery center during the last quarter.
- d) <u>Technical Committee</u> Mike Lyons reviewed a few projects from the TC project review update, noting that DEC approved the 2017 Albany landfill *Work Plan for Preserve Lands*, the Albany Common Council approved updates to the city's zoning

code called Rezone Albany, the town of Guilderland approved a rezone for a new senior living center on New Karner Road pending final site lot approval by the planning board, and the town of Colonie is working to update its 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The Woodlawn preserve received \$50,000 "carve out" from the Commission's appropriation from the state's Environmental Protection Fund to support an extensive survey and boundary posting.

e) <u>Financial Report</u> – Lisa Anthony gave an overview of the commission's financial activities, including a statement of net assets and investment summary for the one month period ending April 30, 2017. Total revenues and expenses both came in at 98 percent of budgeted levels. Total net assets increased by \$56,000, and the three investment funds all showed an increase for the reporting period.

5) Action Items

a) Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Updated 2017/18 Operating Budget

This item approves the updated operating budget for fiscal year 2017/2018 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.

Motion to approve the action item made by Nancy Pierson. Steve Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Policies and Procedures Manual update

This item accepts the updated Policies and Procedures Manual, which applies to all employees of the Commission.

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

c) Public Authority Compliance Documentation

This item 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
- 4. PARIS Annual Report financial summary

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

6) Presentations

a) <u>FY 2016/17 audit – Wojeski & Co.</u>

The audit covers the fiscal year ending March 31 and was presented to the finance committee prior to the full Commission. No difficulties were encountered with management during the performance of the audit, no proposed corrections were communicated during the course of the audit, and no disagreements arose with management during the course of the audit. The auditor's opinion is an unmodified or "clean" opinion, the highest level of assurance one can receive from an audit. Total Commission assets increased by \$460,000 during the year ending March 31, 2017. The Commission's unrestricted net position at the end of the fiscal year was \$7,299,506.

b) Annual report on investments – KeyBank

KeyBank reported that all Commission investments are in line with the Commission's investment policy. KeyBank manages the 2 endowments and the average return over the past five years was seven percent per year. The portfolio is growing nicely and all the numbers are trending the right direction.

c) 3M student scientists climate research – Dr. Alan Fiero and Farnsworth students

Farnsworth middle school students presented the results of their climate science research. The students received a grant from the 3M Corporation that funded the purchase of equipment to support this research. The students measured temperature, wind speed and humidity at various locations within the sand dunes and analyzed the data in an effort to determine where lupine would be most suited to grow. Farnsworth was the first school in the area to study the pine bush and hopefully not the last.

The Commission recognized Dr. Fiero for his 23 years of Pine Bush related research and for his contribution to science education. Dr. Fiero has written numerous articles, poems and stories about the Pine Bush, as well as made videos, conducted community outreach, helped write curricula, and raised Karner butterflies for release into the preserve. In addition, Dr. Fiero has volunteered as a board member of the Friends group and wrote grants to support his Pine Bush research. Dr. Fireo was presented with a commemorative book and thanked for his tremendous dedication to the Pine Bush.

7) Other Business

a) Proposed modifications to Pine Bush legislation

Chris Hawver noted that TNC has assisted the Commission in the past with real property transactions by stepping in and purchasing and holding properties until the state is able to eventually acquire the parcels. TNC is no longer able to serve the function. The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy is able to assist with this role somewhat but does not have the financial resources to provide the same level of support that TNC had provided. The Commission is considering modifying its enabling legislation to allow the

Commission to hold title to property, similar to the authority possessed by the Central Pine Barrens Commission on Long Island. The Commission's executive committee will consider this issue, obtain input from DEC central office, and report back to the full Commission at the September meeting.

8) Future Meetings at the Discovery Center

- September 21, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
- December 21, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
- March 15, 2018, 9:30 a.m.



TO: Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (APBPC)

APBPC Technical Committee

FROM: Christopher Hawver, Executive Director

DATE: September 21, 2017

RE: September 2017 Pine Bush (PB) Update

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

Education and Outreach

Discovery Center (DC) update.

Facility: As the Discovery Center continues to age, minor facility repairs and upgrades continue including the replacement of a collapsed drainage pipe in front of the Discovery Center building this fall. Repair of the drainpipe will resolve an on-going sinkhole on Discovery Center grounds.

Exhibits:

Plans are underway for the next temporary exhibit in the Karner Classroom. Installation is anticipated in January of 2018. Stay tuned for more details later this fall! Until then, the summer exhibit will remain open to visitors.

Tell Me A Story: A contractor has been selected for the fabrication and installation of the new Tell Me a Story exhibit. Moey, an exhibit design and production firm based in NYC will provide project management, final design, fabrication, and installation of the Tell Me A Story exhibit. Our goal for project completion is late March 2018. Moey has created innovative, dynamic and meaningful technology-based exhibits across the country and close to home including the exhibits at the new John Boyd Thacher State Park Visitor's Center.

Programs. As the summer draws to a close, the Education Department is catching its breath and looking back on a busy summer filled with opportunities to introduce visitors to the wonders of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. Over 2,000 program participants attended APBPC interpretive programs from late June through mid-September 2017! We are thankful to the many individuals, families, camps, and other groups that joined us for explorations of bees, ants, plants, turtles, and so much more. We look forward to sharing the diversity of the pine barrens with new and returning visitors this fall.

APBPC Junior Docents continued the annual summer Pond Monitoring Program this year. Each summer, a dedicated team of Junior Docents visits a wetland habitat restoration area adjacent to the City of Albany's Solid Waste Management Facility on a weekly basis to monitor environmental variables including water quality and animal presence. Their data is compiled from year to year, creating a long-term record of habitat observations at this restoration site.

Summer Environmental Education Interns.

The APBPC hosted two Environmental Education Interns over the summer. Amanda Doucette from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Clark Davis from the State University of New York at Geneseo each volunteered six weeks of their summer break as summer Environmental Education Interns at the Discovery Center. Amanda and Clark participated in many aspects of the Education Department's work including leading visitors in interpretive experiences, participating in planning for new programs, and contributing new ideas to the Education Department. We wish them every success as they return to school for the fall semester. The Education Department would also like to recognize and thank the Friends of the Pine Bush Community for their on-going support of the APBPC Environmental Education Internship program.

Community Engagement

APBP staff will host our third Chat with Staff Hour on September 23 at 2pm. The event gives us an opportunity to meet our neighbors and hear their questions, ideas and thoughts on any aspect of living next door to us. Past events have been very insightful and have covered topics including preserve restoration, boundary encroachments and suggested improvements to the Discovery Center.

Efforts continue to expand collaborations with, and support from, the local business community. In August, we hosted two corporate volunteer groups for honeysuckle removal and seed collection, from National Grid and Whole Foods.



We are developing a partnership with The Albany Business Review to co-host an event in the Discovery Center focused on a conservation topic with local business leaders a Business Review subscribers.

The second draft of the revised/streamlined volunteer documents are complete. The new protocols should be in place by year-end.

The APBPC has joined the MEET-UP online social group that brings people together to do, explore, teach and learn the things that help them come alive (most of this initiative will be in coordination with our Friends groups). We have also joined VOLUNTEER MATCH. This website allows us to post our volunteer needs and have people register.

In July, the APBPC hosted and assisted with the planning of the Rapp Road Historical Association's lecture on the great migration to the Pine Bush by Professor Jason Morgan of Mississippi State.

Our Friends 501(c)(3) organization has been working diligently with their legal consultant, Kate Hedgeman, on renewing their by-laws. They also continue to work on a goal-setting document for 2018. They have several outreach tabling events over the next few months.

APBPC staff tabled with our Friends group at the Guilderland Night Out event on August 1st at Tawasentha Park. Fifty-five people stopped by our table.

Conservation Science

Measuring Avian Productivity & Survival. This was the 5th year working with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Institute for Bird Populations (IPB) to investigate breeding season bird populations in the Preserve. Conservation Director, Neil Gifford, along with Field Ecologist, Amanda Dillon, Conservation Biologist, Steve Campbell, seasonal staff, and volunteers captured 612 birds from 43 species in Karner Barrens West (KBW) and Kings Road Barrens (KRB) between June 2 and August 6, 2017 (7 days at each site). KRB was more productive (335 birds from 39 species) than KBW (277 birds from 30 species) despite a spring prescribed fire at the site. Numbers at both locations are up from the previous year. The most abundant species in KBW were Field sparrow (49 individuals), Baltimore oriole (34), Common yellowthroat (25), Black-capped chickadee (22), Song sparrow (20), Gray catbird (19), American robin (17), American goldfinch (15) and Eastern towhee (12). The most abundant species in KRB included:

Gray catbird (58), American robin (38), Song sparrow (30), field sparrow (26), Baltimore oriole (25), Cedar waxwing (24), Prairie warbler (17), Common yellowthroat (13), and Brown thrasher, Chipping sparrow, House wren, and Northern mockingbird (9 each).

2016 Field Season. Many thanks are extended to the Conservation Science team (Tom Williams, Sofia Furlong, Audrey Moylan, Zack Davis, Madison Hand and Rebecca Rolnick (SUNY-ESF Honors Intern)) for all their hard work this summer. They helped monitor Kbb populations, evaluated vegetation in Kbb sites, monitored water depth of over 30 wells and wetlands, assisted bird banding, surveyed for southern pine beetle, conducted distance sampling of inland barren buckmoth larval clusters and maintained the wildlife camera sampling regime. The volume of work and data collected this summer simply would not have been possible without them. Their work, along with those before them, continues to educate us about the plants and animals of this globally rare ecosystem and how best to restore and maintain them. We look forward to continuing to work with Tom and Sofia through October. In addition to data entry, they will assist with additional vegetation surveys, fall bird banding, camera trapping and hydrology monitoring.

Karner blue butterfly. The estimated sizes of the first and second broods in 2017 were 6,170 and 11,780 butterflies, respectively (Fig. 1). Compared to the previous year's estimates, these brood sizes represent a 2% decrease for the first brood and a 21% decrease for the second brood. This year marks the fifth consecutive year that the population exceeded the recovery threshold established by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (i.e., 3000 adults in either the first or second brood) and the fourth time it exceeded the population target set by APBPC (7640 adults). It is worth noting that these estimates are conservative because we did not sample all of the sites in the preserve where they are known to occur.

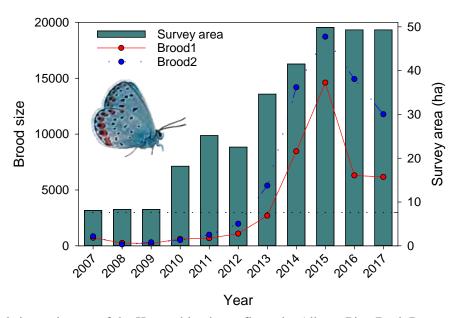


Figure 1. Brood size estimates of the Karner blue butterfly at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, 2007-2017.

Fire Management

Training. The Pine Bush assisted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) by conducting the introduction to wildland firefighting course this summer. Sixteen DEC employees attended the certification class on 7/27/2017 and 7/28/2017 at the Discovery Center.

Prescribed Fire. The APBPC has conducted seven controlled burns totaling 100 acres in 2017. The preserve burned two days this quarter. 'Toast' and 'Witch's Hat' were burned on 6/12/2017 (16 acres) and 'Greenday' 'Genus' and 'Geotaxis' on 7/10/2017 (10 acres). The preserve was assisted by several regional partners for the burns (USFWS, TNC, and NYSDEC) in addition to APB Staff and Volunteers.





Toast Unit

Toast Unit sunset

Wildland Fire. Two APBPC staff also assisted the New York State Wildfire crew on out-of-state assignments. Steve Jackson worked on NYS Crew #1 as a Firefighter Type 2 and was deployed to the 26,000 acre 'Sunrise Fire' in Montana in July. Tyler Briggs worked on NYS Crew #2 as a Faller B and was deployed to the 8,100 acres 'Gibraltar Ridge Fire' in Montana in August. Montana has experienced record drought this year and continues to have major fires burning to this date.



NYSDEC Crew #2

Stewardship

Keeping up with invasive species. Fall is almost here and wildlife habitat restoration efforts in the preserve will continue until the snow flies. Most of this autumn season focus is on eliminating invasive plants in the preserve. The primary invasive plant, the black locust tree, is benefiting from the more open, sunny landscape that is being created in more and more parts of the preserve as the pine barrens are restored. Contracted and seasonal pine bush crews will be eliminating these resprouting locust trees along with other invasive plants from September through December, allowing the native plants to thrive once again.

Invasive Techs. Four Invasive Species Technicians started their three-month long seasonal positions just after Labor Day. These employees will focus on eliminating woody invasive and overabundant plants from selected preserve areas in order to prepare these sites for prescribed fire next season. Hannah, Heather, Jim, and Sean will be using a variety of targeted herbicide techniques to eliminate black locust, honeysuckle, aspen, red maple and other species.

Trails reopen after management is complete. Sometimes it is necessary to close preserve trails while habitat restoration work is taking place with large and potentially dangerous equipment. Large mowing machines and tree cutting and processing equipment make it necessary to temporarily close some trails. However, after several months of trail closures this past spring and early summer in the Madison Avenue Pinelands and the Great Dune regions of the preserve, these trails are now open again to the public. We appreciate the patience of the public as this work was completed in these areas. Thankfully, with over 20 miles of official trails there are other opportunities available elsewhere in the preserve, allowing for public use while meeting management and restoration objectives.

Management mowing. Approximately 75 acres of pine barrens will be mowed in the late fall of 2017. Mowing is a useful tool either in coordination with fire or in place of fire if conditions do not allow for a fire at that time and the vegetation still needs to be managed. Some mowing this fall will take place in Karner Barrens East and the rest in the Kings Road Barrens area of the preserve.

		YE	AR-TO-DATE		APPROVED
REVENUE		<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	% BUDGET	2017-2018 BUDGET
	Dues & Contributions	18,382	17,533	105%	69,700
	Government Grants & Contracts	991,895	1,100,000	90%	2,867,694
	Mitigation Fees	86,703	60,000	0%	240,000
	Lease Revenue	56,927	56,928	100%	171,632
	Other Revenue	15,075	8,888	170%	26,000
TOTAL REVENUE		1,168,982	1,243,349	94%	3,375,026
EXPENSES					
	Personnel & Fringe	593,348	674,770	88%	1,871,642
	Travel & Training	4,964	12,029	41%	59,530
	Contractual	258,602	267,865	97%	838,937
	Communications	41,083	92,045	45%	141,165
	Occupancy	24,570	22,323	110%	73,435
	Supplies & Equipment	37,710	79,528	47%	176,190
	Other Expenses	43,310	55,426	78%	116,573
TOTAL EXPENSES	_				
		1,003,587	1,203,986	83%	3,277,472
NET SURPLUS (DEFIC	IT)	165,395	39,363		97,554

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Statement of Net Assets July 31, 2017

ASSETS		FY 2018		FY 2017
Cash & Cash Equivalents		812,884	\$	947,215
Conservation & Land Reserves		50,000		50,000
Grants Receivable		335,645		63,016
Accounts Receivable		86,703		58,060
Inventory		20,110		20,110
Prepaid Expenses		-		46,918
Investments		6,701,050		6,546,361
Capital Assets		4,174,889		4,172,089
Deferred Outflows from NYS Retirement		799,283		799,283
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	12,980,564	\$	12,703,052
LIABILITIES Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses Deferred Revenue Net Pension Liability NYS Retirement TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ \$	158,567 63,206 930,630 1,152,403	\$ \$	201,137 63,206 930,630 1,194,973
NET ASSETS Invested in Capital Assets, net of debt	\$	4,174,889	\$	4,172,089
Reserved		36,484		36,484
Unreserved		7,616,788		7,299,506
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$	11,828,161	\$	11,508,079

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Investment Summary 7/31/2017

Reserve Fund Beginning Balar

Beginning Balance	3,339,849.05
Deposits	-
Withdrawals	-
Expenses	(5,747.10)
Income	20,553.60
Unrealized Gains/Losses	23,728.15
Ending Balance	3,373,441.17
Annualized Rate	1.33%

Discovery Center Endowment

Beginning Balance	101,096.76
Deposits	-
Withdrawals	-
Expenses	(466.67)
Income	712.81
Unrealized Gains/Losses	3,335.85
Ending Balance	104,678.75
Annualized Rate	4.02%

Endowment Beginning Bala

Beginning Balance	3,105,415.07
Deposits	-
Withdrawals	-
Expenses	(5,416.21)
Income	21,799.36
Unrealized Gains/Losses	101,132.16
Ending Balance	3,222,930.38
Annualized Rate	3.97%

n



ACTION ITEM A APBPC 9/21/17

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission Officers

Be it Resolved,

that the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission elects the following officers to fulfill the duties as described in Article V of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission By-Laws (last amended March 14, 2012):

- Vice Chair:
 Alane Ball Chinian, Representative of the NYS Office of Parks,
 Recreation and Historic Preservation
- 2) Secretary: Donald Csaposs, Representative of the Town of Guilderland
- 3) Treasurer: John Brust, Citizen Member



ACTION ITEM B

APBPC 9/21/17

Acceptance of Town of Guilderland Dedication of 3 Torrin Lane

Be it resolved,

that the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (Commission) accepts the dedication of the parcel of land known as 3 Torrin Lane with Tax Map ID #28.05-2-7.13 comprising 0.36 acres by the Town of Guilderland and more particularly described in the Town of Guilderland's Resolution from August 15, 2017 and Schedule A attached hereto and made a part hereof, per Section 46-0107 of Article 46 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law 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.