Page 1 1 BOROUGH OF BELLMAWR, NEW JERSEY 2 GREEN ACRES SCOPE MEETING 3 _ _ _ 4 5 Monday, July 23, 2024 6 7:00 p.m. 7 8 _ _ _ 9 21 East Browning Road 10 Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031 11 _ _ _ 12 Borough Council Members Present: 13 Mayor Chuck Sauter 14 15 Transcribed by: Lisa DePascale, Court Reporter 16 17 Videographer: Karen Keebler 18 19 20 21 22 23 GOLKOW, A VERITEXT DIVISION 877.370.3377 ph / 917.591.5672 fax 24 calendar-golkow@veritext.com

	Page 2		Page 4
	APPEARANCES:	1	conditions. Typically that is a very valid
2	EARP COHN, P.C.	2	public purpose in support of the diversion and
3	DONALD A. NOGOWSKI, ESQUIRE 20 Brace Road	3	adequate compensation for the parkland that is
	Suite 400	4	being given up.
4	Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034 856.354.7700 / 215.963.9520	5	The typical ratio in this situation is
5	dnogowski@earpcohn.com	6	a 5 to 1. So if the public body is giving up
	Representing: Bellmawr Waterfront Development	7	one acre of ground, the replacement ground has
6	ALSO PRESENT: JENNIFER BERG, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	8	to be at least five acres so. And there is
<i>'</i>	RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.	9	also other requirements regarding park
8	553 Beckert Road	10	improvements and other investments.
9	Suite 608 PO Box 521	11	This particular diversion was approved
Ĺ	Bridgeport, New Jersey 08014	12	by DEP about 12 years ago. The way the Green
10	856.467.2276 x 121	12	Acres regulations work, it's a two-step
11	jberg@rtenv.com.	13	process. Early in the process Bellmawr applied
12	HOWARD LONG,	15	for this diversion and it was approved by Green
12	BELLMAWR MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR	16	Acres 10 years ago, what's called a preliminary
13 14		17	Green Acres approval. One of the conditions of
15		18	the approval and one of Bellmawr's conditions
16 17		19	was that the entire site be fully remediated
18		20	and prepared to create the new parkland that's
19		20	part of the compensation in order for the
20 21		21	project to proceed.
22		22	We are pleased to report that after all
23		23	these years, the remediation phase of the
24		24	•
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1	Page 3	1	Page 5
1	MAYOR SAUTER: Good evening, everyone.	1	project is complete excepting only what's
2	MAYOR SAUTER: Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the Borough of Bellmawr.	2	project is complete excepting only what's called the top of cap. And the only reason the
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	Page 6		Page 8
1	Back in the 1990s, Bellmawr got	1	bought this property, there were dreams of
2	approval to use Block 78, Lot 2, or a part of	2	providing public access to the waterfront. And
3	it anyway, as a compost center facility. So	3	unfortunately until today, that was not
4	this was operated for several years by Bellmawr	4	possible. We are very pleased to say that
5	as a compost center.	5	through the hard work of Bellmawr's elected
6	The diversion, which was proposed by	6	officials, working with the private
7	Bellmawr and approved by DEP is to exchange	7	redevelopers, DEP, the County, Gloucester
8	Block 78, Lot 2, this orange lot, which	8	County, Deptford, everyone has worked together
9	although it's parkland, has never actually been	9	cooperatively and harder in these years in
10	able to be used as parkland. It was a part of	10	order to get us where we are today.
11	one of the three landfills at the site that was	11	One of the area of note is that there
12	formerly never properly capped and closed. So	12	is a separate parcel in Deptford adjacent to
13	it could not be safely used as parkland or	13	Lot 1.02, which is about two and a half acres,
14	anything else until now. But it's still	14	known as Lot 1.01. This was also subdivided
15	legally parkland, which is why we have to do	15	off at Green Acres request. This land is
16	this diversion.	16	destined to be also be parkland. It's not part
17	So Block 78, Lot 2 is the lot that	17	of this application. It's going to be part of
18	Bellmawr has applied to have Green Acres	18	the separate application that Bellmawr will
19	restrictions removed from in exchange for the	19	submit regarding other property in Bellmawr.
20	replacement ground. The replacement ground	20	But the goal is that it would be added to the
20 21	includes a part of Block 79.01, Lot 9.01, this	20	park as well, making the total park well over
21	green area here (indicating). This is about	$\frac{21}{22}$	40 acres.
22	21 acres. This has been subdivided, as per	22	With that, I would like to I'm
23 24	Green Acres request, into what's now Lot 9.02.	23	sorry. I have one more thing to add.
27		27	
1	Page 7 In addition, Green Acres had approved a	1	Page 9 During the course of this whole process
2	portion of Deptford, Block 1.02, Lot 1, which	2	another necessary partner has been the New
3	has been subdivided. And this area is now	3	Jersey Department of Transportation. NJ DOT
4	known as Lot 1.02, as part of this Green Acres	4	originally proposed building Missing Moves,
5	diversion. That's about 1.8 acres. Block 78,	5	which is this highway right here (indicating)
6	Lot 1, which is about 12 acres, is currently	6	across the landfill, which would have precluded
7	Green Acres and will remain Green Acres.	7	access to the waterfront, would have precluded
8	By combining the existing Block 78, Lot	8	any kind of waterfront park and would not have
9	1 with the other replacement lots that are	9	been able to permit even the proper remediation
10	engrained, you have a continuous 38 acre	10	of the site.
11	waterfront park, or ground to create a	11	Bellmawr, to its credit, for many years
12	waterfront park anyway, along the waterfront	12	contested DOT's plans and caused DOT to
13	preserving waterfront access and park access	13	eventually move the road where it is now, off
14	for the public. That was one of the main goals	14	of the landfill and elevate it so that you
15	that we were told as redeveloper, you know, 12,	15	could get down through Stanley and Coolidge and
16	14 years ago was, whatever we did here, we	16	Harding and those other roads, so that public
17	first had to remediate the landfill to stop the	17	access could be maintained.
17	leachate into the Big Timber Creek. Leachate	17	So again, it's been a long and arduous
19	is chemical contamination, which was leaching	10	process. We are pleased to report we're at the
20	from the landfill into the creek. That has now	20	end of that process. We're ready to start
	been totally abandoned through the remediation	20	construction next year.
21	ocen totany abandoneu unough me remediation		-
21 22	effort And secondly to make sure that we	22	With that I would like to invite Ionn
22	effort. And secondly, to make sure that we	22	With that, I would like to invite Jenn Berg from PT Environmental PT has been the
	effort. And secondly, to make sure that we preserved public access to the waterfront. From the 1970s, when Bellmawr first	22 23 24	With that, I would like to invite Jenn Berg from RT Environmental. RT has been the environmental consultant on this project.

1	Page 10		Page 12
1	First, the late and well-regarded Gary Brown,	1	there. The reason why we want to make sure
2	our dear friend who passed away a few years	2	that waste now stays dry is because when you
3	ago, was very instrumental in working with	3	mix trash with water, stormwater, you end up
4	Bellmawr and the redeveloper to get us where	4	with something called leachate. Leachate is
5	we're at. Today Chris Ward is the LSRP or	5	waste water.
6	Private Professional Engineer assigned by the	6	And so the entire process of closing
7	DEP to the site under DEP oversight. And Jenn	7	this landfill has been about managing
8	Berg works with Chris from RT Environmental.	8	stormwater on this site. And so to that end,
9	So with that, if you could please give	9	we needed to properly grade the site. So you
10	us just a few minutes on remediation work on	10	need to grade the site, into which I'm sure you
11	the entire site, and in particular on the new	11	guys see it today as you're going down 295 and
12	parklands.	12	Creek Road and 42, you see these slopes. And
13	MS. BERG: Of course, yes.	13	that's because we have to promote stormwater
14	Thank you very much.	14	runoff. When rain comes down, we want to get
15	I've been working on this project since	15	it off the site. And so we've had many
16	2008. I am now the Senior Project Manager	16	improvements throughout the years to accomplish
17	working underneath under the LSRP to see	17	this. As you know the Borough of Bellmawr was
18	this project come to its completion.	18	involved with the installation of the major
19	Ever since, in the beginning, when we	19	stormwater culvert that runs along Route 42.
20	were developing what is called the remedial	20	We then had to improve the site with all brand
21	action work plan and landfill closure plan with	21	new stormwater piping, which runs basically
22	the DEP, the arrangement of the site and this	22	from Route 42, 1,700 feet of pipe that then
23	diversion was always planned for from the very	23	comes to 295.
24	beginning.	24	Additionally, we have surfaced
	Page 11		Page 13
1	We do work with two departments	1	stormwater controls. Meaning, we have
2	well, many departments within DEP, but the main	1 2	
3			stormwater conveyance channels, where we tell
5	landfill closure and site remediation program	3	the water where to go and then it drains into
4	landfill closure and site remediation program is under division of solid waste, which is our		-
		3	the water where to go and then it drains into
4 5 6	is under division of solid waste, which is our	3 4	the water where to go and then it drains into our stormwater systems. And so what that would
4 5	is under division of solid waste, which is our landfill closure permit and then site	3 4 5	the water where to go and then it drains into our stormwater systems. And so what that would have left us with you know what, this would
4 5 6 7 8	is under division of solid waste, which is our landfill closure permit and then site remediation, which is the licensed site	3 4 5 6	the water where to go and then it drains into our stormwater systems. And so what that would have left us with you know what, this would be actually a really good picture right here.
4 5 6 7	is under division of solid waste, which is our landfill closure permit and then site remediation, which is the licensed site remediation professional program. So the reason why this diversion was always contemplated is because this site is a	3 4 5 6 7	the water where to go and then it drains into our stormwater systems. And so what that would have left us with you know what, this would be actually a really good picture right here. (Ms. Berg is changing the display board). And so I think in this aerial you can
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	is under division of solid waste, which is our landfill closure permit and then site remediation, which is the licensed site remediation professional program. So the reason why this diversion was always contemplated is because this site is a historic landfill, so it was never built,	3 4 5 6 7 8	the water where to go and then it drains into our stormwater systems. And so what that would have left us with you know what, this would be actually a really good picture right here. (Ms. Berg is changing the display board). And so I think in this aerial you can see what we're talking about when we have side
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	Page 14		Page 16
1	move forward with this application. And	1	also includes the park improvements. These
2	because remediation in all of these areas,	2	park improvements include parking areas,
3	except for these top areas, they're going to be	3	bathrooms, over a mile of walking trail, two
4	improved with redevelopment. Everything else	4	different access points. Initially the first
5	has been capped and closed per the remedial	5	access point will be from the existing driveway
6	action work plan and the landfill closure plan.	6	on Creek Road here (indicating), which is where
7	And that's where we find ourselves	7	the bathrooms will be built as well.
8	today.	8	Eventually after redevelopment occurs,
9	MR. NOGOWSKI: Thank you.	9	commercial redevelopment, there will be an
10	(Mr. Nogowski is putting up new display	10	access road off of a new road to be built
11	boards.)	11	called Relief Avenue Extension as well, which
12	So now I'd just like to talk a little	12	will come down to this point here (indicating).
13	bit about one of the most exciting parts of the	13	And that will be the second access point.
14	project, which is our future park here. I also	14	Along the way this particular plan was
15	wanted to review just sort of the structure	15	reviewed and vetted by our friends in Bellmawr
16	that enables us to build this park as proposed.	16	over several different meetings, members of
17	Again, this is a long-standing public	17	Council, Mayor Sauter, and other folks. And
18	private partnership. One of the major players	18	there is a whole set of park plans, which were
19	is a company named Bellmawr Waterfront	19	part of our site plan approval. We did submit
20	Development. Bellmawr Waterfront Development,	20	to the Bellmawr Joint Land Use Board several
$20 \\ 21$	LLC worked back with former Mayor Filipek, back	20	months ago for site plan approval for both the
$21 \\ 22$	in the day, to put the basic structure in	22	commercial development and the park. Those
22	place. Bellmawr Waterfront Development entered	23	details include overlooks, meaning areas where
23	into what's called an MOU, a Memorandum Of	23	folks up top, where the parking area is, can go
24		27	Torks up top, where the parking area is, can go
1	Page 15 Understanding, with the NJDEP. Bellmawr	1	Page 17 out and overlook the whole area, which again is
2	Waterfront Development was not the party that	2	a beautiful parkland setting. Once you're down
$\begin{vmatrix} 2\\ 3 \end{vmatrix}$	operated the landfills. That was other folks.	3	at water level, the park includes trails,
4	But Bellmawr Waterfront Development voluntarily	4	benches, shade, gazebos, some solar lighting
5	agreed to undertake the remediation of the	5	that the Town wanted. The park would be
6	whole site, including the parts owned by	6	secured by gates and what are called bollards
7	Bellmawr Borough, which is a key part of the	7	in the middle of the road, which will prevent
8	overall plan.	8	cars, except for officially permitted cars,
9	As part of that agreement, in addition	9	from getting down there.
	to doing the remediation, Bellmawr agreed	10	So again, it will be a very beautiful
10	originally over 10 years ago and then that was	10	natural waterfront park which will provide the
11		12	citizens of Bellmawr and other nearby towns
12	formalized in the redevelopment agreement about		-
13	four years ago, that an entity by the name of	13	with direct access to the Big Timber Creek,
14	Big Timber Junction, LLC or BTJ, as we like to	14 15	which is a beautiful tidal estuary.
15	call it, became the designated redeveloper.	15	I have the ability to go down to the
16	And Big Timber is responsible financially to		Chesapeake every once in a while. And it's
17	ensure that the park gets built. And the cost	17	beautiful down there. And this creek reminds
18	of the park is probably approaching a million	18	me of the Chesapeake. It's really so
19	dollars at this point, so or north of a	19	picturesque down if you've never been down
20	million dollars. And that's part of the	20	there. Folks go waterskiing. Folks go
21	compensation too.	21	swimming along there.
22	DEP agreed to this because of the land	22	Across the other way is a State nature
23	swap, which includes a parcel in West Deptford	23	preserve, a wildlife preserve, as well as
24	as well, which I'll get to in a moment, but	24	another property that is I don't know if

	Page 18		Page 20
1	it's the it's the Sons of Israel. I don't	1	West Deptford parcel.
2	know if it's formerly preserved, but it's green	2	This hearing is to make sure that the
3	space and it's beautiful.	3	Municipality itself, as well as members of the
4	This park, and again, we have discussed	4	public are aware of all this. And also to
5	this with the Mayor of Runnemede from time to	5	solicit any public comments to the proposed
6	time, but Runnemede has a similar park that	6	diversion.
7	they built on the other side of Route 42. So	7	In the past DEP sometimes worked
8	this will be very complimentary, you know,	8	without the direct involvement of the local
9	creating a waterfront that folks can go back	9	Municipalities, which isn't always a good
10	and forth by kayak and that kind of thing. So	10	thing. So that's why the regulations provide
11	that's, you know, the park improvements.	11	for these scoping hearings so that there is no
12	That's another key component of the diversion,	12	surprises, so that the public and the
13	is the park improvements.	13	Municipality knows what DEP is doing in their
14	The third part of the park improvements	14	town.
15	is and again, this was a parcel of ground	15	With that, I think that concludes, you
16	that the NJDEP specifically requested that	16	know, our presentation on the diversion. I
17	Bellmawr Waterfront Development on behalf of	17	think we covered all the things that DEP asked
18	Bellmawr purchase so it can be preserved. This	18	us to.
19	is plus or minus 150 acres in the same	19	Mr. Mayor, would you have any
20	watershed, the Delaware River watershed, a	20	questions?
21	little bit south of what would be Timber Creek	21	MAYOR SAUTER: Not at this time. You
22	and to the Delaware. This is down adjacent to	22	covered everything.
23	River Winds, it fronts on the Delaware River.	23	MR. NOGOWSKI: Mr. Long or counsel?
24	This is a 150-acre parcel that the DEP wanted	24	MR. LONG: No questions.
1	Page 19 to preserve because they were fearful it would	1	Page 21 MR. NOGOWSKI: Would any members of the
2	be developed industrially. So at their	2	public have any questions?
3	request, we acquired it for the purpose of	3	Yes, sir.
4	completing the diversion land compensation	4	MR. DIRENZO: How do you plan on
5	swap.	5	getting access down to the waterfront?
6	In addition to that, the DEP required	6	MR. NOGOWSKI: I'm sorry. My hearing
7	Bellmawr to create new wetlands, to do	7	is not great, sir.
8	wetlands mitigation, due to some of the	8	MR. DIRENZO: How do you plan on
9	remediation work. Some of the remediation	9	getting access to the waterfront? As of right
10	work up in this area here (indicating)	10	now there is no access to the waterfront.
11	adjacent to 295, involved filling in areas	11	MR. NOGOWSKI: Well, I'll be happy to
12	where there was direct tidal water to trash	12	explain that.
13	contact. And although it was necessary for	13	MS. BERG: Yeah. I think this is the
14	remediation, the other parts of DEP said,	14	better one.
15	well, you might have had to do it, but you	15	(Ms. Berg is Putting up a new display
16	still filled in wetlands, so, therefore, you	16	board.)
17	have to create new wetlands, which we did.	17	MR. NOGOWSKI: There is an existing
18	And we did that down here at the West Deptford	18	driveway here on Creek Road. And there is
19	parcel as well.	19	going to be a parking area and eventually
20	So those are the three components of	20	bathrooms built up here (indicating) as well,
21	the diversion. Diverting 17.8 acres in	21	that's the trail head. From that point, that's
22	Bellmawr, which is this area here	22	where the trail will go down to the water and
23	(indicating), in exchange for the new	23	then follow along the water, all the way here
24	waterfront park, the park improvements and the	24	(indicating).

	Page 22		Page 24
1	As part of the development of the top	1	to do it, in Gloucester City, was we passed an
2	side, there was a new roadway, internal	2	ordinance that no one was allowed to access or
3	roadway, up here (indicating), going down to	3	jump from any public lands into tidal waters.
4	this overlook area here (indicating). There	4	MR. DIRENZO: Yeah. There's a frequent
5	will be a second parking area and a second	5	pier issue. Yeah.
6	trail head south of here. So that's how you	6	MR. LONG: So we put that in, we
7	get to	7	adopted that ordinance. Because we literally
8	MS. BERG: And you have	8	had people jumping off Freedom Pier in
9	MR. DIRENZO: Because right now you	9	Gloucester City and the Cooper River. And you
10	have all slopes, like you had said in your	10	probably were involved in some of those with
11	testimony.	11	residents.
12	MS. BERG: So the trail is going to be	12	So we finally passed an ordinance. And
13	built at the base.	13	I'm going to be recommending to Council that we
14	MR. NOGOWSKI: Like, water level.	14	should look at something very similar and to
15	MS. BERG: Right. Right. And the rest	15	the Mayor.
16	of it is dedicated, you know, open, natural	16	MR. DIRENZO: Yeah. That's just some
17	open space. So the trail will be at around,	17	of our safety concerns. Because we went out
18	you know, the base of it.	18	there trying to get a lay of the land and there
19	MR. NOGOWSKI: This area, the area that	19	was absolutely no access to the waterfront as
20	I think you may be thinking of	20	of right now.
21	MR. DIRENZO: Well, we go out there a	21	MR. NOGOWSKI: Right. But there will
22	lot, so.	22	be. There will be through the trail head and
23	MR. NOGOWSKI: Okay. Well, the area	23	the trail. And we certainly expect that
24	down here (indicating) because of the steepness	24	Bellmawr will not let any swimming or other
	Page 23		Page 25
1	of the slope will require what's called a	1	kind of activities occurring. But that's for
2	switchback trail. Meaning, that you don't go	2	you guys to decide.
3	straight down because the slope would be too	3	MR. LONG: It's just a safety issue.
4	bad, you have to go like a zig-zag. That's a	4	MR. NOGOWSKI: Yeah. It's tidal, and
5	switchback. So there will be a switchback here	5	it's a very swift tidal there, so I doubt
6	(indicating), but here there won't be a	6	you're going to want swimming.
7	switchback. You'll be able to just walk	7	MR. SHARP: Hey, Don, when do you
8	straight down from the parking area the	8	anticipate breaking ground on it?
9	original trail had and along the water there.	9	MR. NOGOWSKI: Next year.
10	And it's not intended to have any other	10	MR. SHARP: Next year?
11	way to get down there. We don't want people	11	MR. NOGOWSKI: We are very close
12	trying to go down other ways because it won't	12	working with our friends in Bellmawr to work
13	be safe. So it won't, you know, there's not	13	out a few details, but we are ready to get
14	there's only going to be two trail heads; one	14	started next year.
15	way in, one way out originally, and then two	15	MR. SHARP: Okay. And I know because
16	ways in, two ways out.	16	there was a special meeting last year, I know
17	MR. DIRENZO: And the top is going to	17	you spoke at, and the issue of lighting was
18	be fenced off, I assume then?	18	raised.
19	MR. NOGOWSKI: We don't believe fencing	19	Is there going to be, you know, plenty
20	will be required. Certainly we haven't seen it	20	of lighting down in that area?
20 21	will be required. Certainly we haven't seen it done at other similar sites. And fencing is	21	MR. NOGOWSKI: There in the approved
20 21 22	will be required. Certainly we haven't seen it done at other similar sites. And fencing is not part of the plan.	21 22	MR. NOGOWSKI: There in the approved site plan there is solar lighting. And it will
20 21	will be required. Certainly we haven't seen it done at other similar sites. And fencing is	21	MR. NOGOWSKI: There in the approved

	Page 26		Page 28
1	other parks and dealing with the DEP, they	1	-
2	generally don't like lighting down by the water	2	· ·
3	because it can interfere with the wildlife and	3	
4	all that. But that will be up to Bellmawr. If	4	
5	Bellmawr wants solar lighting, they'll have it.	5	
6	But, you know.	6	
7	MR. SHARP: Yeah.	7	or problems like that.
8	And, like, handicap parking, is that	8	•
9	like, where is that going to be located? Is	9	
10	that being factored in?	10	
11	MR. NOGOWSKI: There will be handicap	11	questions or comments from the public,
12	parking at both spots. The overlook areas will	12	•
13	be ADA accessible. The park itself, by its	13	MAYOR SAUTER: Okay.
14	nature will not be ADA accessible; it doesn't	14	•
15	have to be. But there are design parameters	15	MAYOR SAUTER: Thank you for coming
16	that the U.S. Park Service publishes to make it	15	
17	easier for disabled to park. It's not	17	(Hearing concluded at 7:30 p.m.)
18	completely ADA, but design elements. And that		
19	is part of our design.	19	
20	MR. SHARP: Just going on a safety	$\frac{1}{20}$	
20	issue, Mr. Long, for instance, but are ATVs	20	
$21 \\ 22$	going to be permitted to go on this or no?	$ ^{21}_{22}$	
22	That's what I'm saying. Like, are you going to	22	
23	look at that's what I'm saying. Are you	23	
27		27	
1	Page 27 going to pass an ordinance on it, Mr. Mayor,	1	Page 29 CERTIFICATION
2	like, restricting access to that, so they don't	$\begin{vmatrix} 1\\2 \end{vmatrix}$	
3	go into that area?	$\begin{vmatrix} 2\\ 3 \end{vmatrix}$	
4	MR. NOGOWSKI: Well, can you drive them	4	I, Lisa DePascale, Court Reporter, certify
5	on public streets to get there today?	5	
	MR. SHARP: Yeah, but I'm saying, like,		of the foregoing proceeding.
6		7	I further certify that I am neither
78	if it's a waterfront park, people is going to think, hey, maybe they can go you know what	8	attorney nor counsel for, not related to nor employed
9			by any of the parties to the action in which this
	I'm saying?	10	proceeding was taken; further, that I am not a
10	MR. NOGOWSKI: That's up to Bellmawr,	11	relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
11	but we would discourage it.	12	employed in this case, nor am I financially interested
12	MR. LONG: Yeah. There will be no ATV.	13	in this action.
13	MR. SHARP: Right. But if it's a nice	14	
14	waterfront park area, you know	15	P. O.I
15	MR. NOGOWSKI: Right. Bicycles? Yes.	16	and a new added
16	You know, people walking? Jogging? Yes.	17	Lisa DePascale
17	ATVs? Probably not.		Court Reporter and Notary Public
18	MR. SHARP: The reason I say that is		in The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Delawar
19	because you see State parks, ATVs are	19	
20	MR. NOGOWSKI: Yeah. I think there are	20	
21	a few other parks in this area on the Delaware	21	
22	River that provide good examples of how this	22	
23 24	was done well. We looked at some of those. There is one up in Delran. Amico Island it's	23 24	

0	3	9.02. 6:24	action 10:21
08014 2:9	38 7:10	917.591.5672	14:6 29:9,13
08031 1:10	4	1:23	activities 25:1
08034 2:4		a	actual 5:9
1	40 8:22 400 2:3	abandoned	actually 5:6 6:9 13:6
1 4:6 5:17 7:2,6	42 11:15,16	7:21	ada 26:13,14
7:9	12:12,19,22	ability 17:15	26:18
1,700 12:22	18:7	able 6:10 9:9	add 8:24
1.01. 8:14	5		added 8:20
1.02 7:2,4 8:13	5 4:6	- absolutely	addition 7:1
1.8 7:5	521 2:9	24:19	15:9 19:6
10 4:16 15:11	521 2.9 553 2:8	access 7:13,13	additionally
12 4:12 7:6,15		7:23 8:2 9:7,17	12:24
121 2:10	6	16:4,5,10,13	adequate 4:3
14 7:16	608 2:8	17:13 21:5,9	adjacent 8:12
15 3:13	60s 11:13	21:10 24:2,19	18:22 19:11
150 18:19,24	7	27:2	adopted 24:7
17.8 19:21	70s 11:13,14	accessible	aerial 13:9
1970s 5:15 7:24	78 5:13,16 6:2	26:13,14	ago 4:12,16
1990s 6:1	6:8,17 7:5,8	accomplish	7:16 10:3
2	79.01 6:21	12:16	15:11,13 16:21
2 5:14,19 6:2,8	7:00 1:6	accurate 29:5	agreed 15:5,10
6:17	7:30 28:17	acquired 5:16	15:22
20 2:3	8	5:20 19:3	agreement 15:9
200 2.3 2008 10:16		acre 4:7 7:10 18:24	15:12
2000 10.10 2024 1:5	856.354.7700		allowed 24:2
2024 1.5 21 1:9 6:23	2:4	acres 1:2 3:3,16	amico 27:24
21 1.9 0.23	856.467.2276	3:19,20,21,23	anticipate 25:8
2:4	2:10	4:8,13,16,17	anyway 6:3
23 1:5	877.370.3377	5:21,22,23	7:12
25430 29:16	1:23	6:18,23,24 7:1	appearances
294.30 29.10 295 11:16	9	7:4,5,6,7,7 8:13	2:1
12:11,23 19:11	9.01 6:21	8:15,22 18:19	application
12.11,23 17.11		19:21	8:17,18 14:1
			,

Page 2

applied4:14 $6:18$ aware20:4benches17:4built11:10 $6:18$ bberg $2:7$ 9:23 $15:17$ 16:7,10 $15:17$ 16:7,10 $approaching15:18back5:15 6:114:21,21 18:910:8,13 13:721:13,15 22:818:7 21:2022:12,15approval4:174:18 5:23 6:216:19,21back5:15 6:114:21,21 18:922:12,15capproved4:114:15 6:7 7:125:21basic14:22basicallybetter21:14bigc29:1,1calendarcarduous9:1816:3,7 21:20bit14:13 18:21bit14:13 18:2114:13 18:21c21:1,12calledcarea6:22 7:38:11 13:1416:3,7 21:2016:24 17:119:10,22 21:19bay13:1918:26:17,21 7:2,5,816:20 21:1614:24 16:1117:6 23:1 28:1calls12:2118:2$
approaching 15:18back5:15 6:1 14:21,21 18:910:8,13 13:7 21:13,15 22:818:7 21:20 22:13approval4:17 4:18 5:23 6:2 16:19,21bad23:4 base22:12,15cbad23:4 basebetter21:14 big7:18 15:14 15:16 17:1318:7 21:20 22:13approved4:11 4:15 6:7 7:1 25:21basic14:22 basically11:23 12:21carduous9:18 area6:22 7:3 8:11 13:14 16:24 17:1 19:10 22 21:1916:3,7 21:20 baybit14:13 18:21 bit16:3,7 21:20 13:19bit14:13 18:21 16:3,7 21:20 bay16:3,7 21:20 13:19bit14:13 18:21 16:3,7 21:20 bay16:3,7 21:20 13:1916:3,7 21:20 16:3,7 21:20area6:17,21 7:2,5,8 16:20 21:16c29:1,1 called13:7 21:1119:10 22 21:1917:2,10,14,1716:20 21:1613:8 16:20 21:1613:8 16:20 21:1613:8 16:20 21:1613:8 22:12
11 12 13 14 13 14 12 14 14 12 13 14 14 12 13 14 14 12 13 14 14 12 13 14 12 14 13 15 12 13 14 12 14 15 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 17 13 16 16 13 18 16 13 16 13 16 17 13 16 13 16 17 13 16 17 13 16 17 13 16 17 13 16 13 16 17 13 16 17 13 16 17 13 16 16 17 13 <th< th=""></th<>
approval 4:17 14:21,21 18:9 22:12,15 4:18 5:23 6:2 bad 23:4 base 22:13,18 16:19,21 basic 14:22 basic 14:22 approved 4:11 4:15 6:7 7:1 12:21 25:21 bathrooms 16:3,7 21:20 area 6:22 7:3 bay 13:19 8:11 13:14 16:24 17:1 19:10 22 21:19 17:2,10,14,17
4:18 5:23 6:2 bad 25:4 base 22:13,18 16:19,21 base 22:13,18 better 21:14 approved 4:11 basic 14:22 big 7:18 15:14 4:15 6:7 7:1 12:21 bathrooms arduous 9:18 16:3,7 21:20 bit 14:13 18:21 area 6:22 7:3 16:3,7 21:20 bit 14:13 18:21 bay 13:19 beautiful 5:12 5:17,18 6:2,8 bay 13:19 6:17,21 7:2,5,8 14:24 16:11 19:10 22 21:19 17:2,10,14,17 16:20 21:16 calls 3:23
16:19,21 base 22:13,18 bicycles 27:15 c 29:1,1 approved 4:11 4:15 6:7 7:1 basically 11:23 big 7:18 15:14 calendar 1:24 25:21 bathrooms 12:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 barea 6:22 7:3 bay 13:19 bicxck 5:13,16 5:2,14,22 16:24 17:1 17:2,10,14,17 16:20 21:16 5:17,18 6:2,8 14:24 16:11 17:2,10,14,17 16:20 21:16 13:8 16:20 21:16 13:8
approved 4:11 4:15 6:7 7:1 basic 14:22 big 7:18 15:14 calendar 1:24 4:15 6:7 7:1 12:21 big 7:18 15:14 15:16 17:13 calendar 1:24 arduous 9:18 16:3,7 21:20 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 calendar 1:24 area 6:22 7:3 16:3,7 21:20 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 10:20 12:4 16:24 17:1 17:2,10,14,17 6:17,21 7:2,5,8 10:20 12:4 14:24 16:11 17:2,10,14,17 16:20 21:16 calendar 1:24 calendar 1:24
4:15 6:7 7:1 12:21 4:15 6:7 7:1 12:21 arduous 9:18 12:21 area 6:22 7:3 16:3,7 21:20 8:11 13:14 16:24 17:1 19:10 22 21:19 17:2,10,14,17
25:21 bathrooms arduous 9:18 area 6:22 7:3 8:11 13:14 16:24 17:1 19:10 22 21:19 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:13 18:21 bit 14:24 16:11 17:2,10,14,17 16:20 21:16
arduous9:1816:3,7 21:20block5:13,1610:20 12:4area6:22 7:3bay13:195:17,18 6:2,814:24 16:11beautiful5:1217:2,10,14,175:17,21 7:2,5,817:6 23:1 28:119:10 22 21:1917:2,10,14,1716:20 21:16calls3:23
area 6:22 7:3 bay 13:19 5:17,18 6:2,8 10:20 12:4 8:11 13:14 beautiful 5:12 6:17,21 7:2,5,8 14:24 16:11 16:24 17:1 17:2,10,14,17 board 13:8 16:20 21:16
8:11 13:14 bay 15:19 6:17,21 7:2,5,8 14:24 16:11 16:24 17:1 17:2,10,14,17 6:17,21 7:2,5,8 17:6 23:1 28:1 16:20 21:16 16:20 21:16 calls 3:23
16:24 17:1 17:2,10,14,17 19:10 22 21:19 17:2,10,14,17 board 13:8 16:20 21:16 calls
10.2021.10 cap 5:2.3.6
22.45101023 boards 14.11
22:4,5,19,19,23 beckert 2:8 boards 14:11 capped 6:12 23:8 25:20 beginning body 3:17 4:6 14:5
27:3,14,21 beginning 14.5 10:19,24 bollards 17:6 cars 17:8,8
28:2 behalf 18:17 28:4 case 29:12
areas5:5 13:21believe23:19borough1:1,12caused9:12
14:2,3 16:2,23 bellower 23:19 3:2 5:20 12:17 caused 9:12 10:11 2:12 bellmawr 1:1 15 7 center 6:3,5
19:11 26:12 Definition 1.1 15:7 certain 3:24
arrangement 1.10 2.3,12 3.2 bought 8:1 certainly 23:20 10 20 3:6 4:14 5:15 bought 8:1 certainly 23:20
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$
asked 20:17 7:24 8:18,19 brace 2:3 certify 29:4,7
aspects 11:19 9:11 10:4 brand 12:20 cetera 5:5
assigned 10:6 12:17 14:19,20 breaking 25:8 changing 13:7
assume 23:18 14:23 15:1,4,7 bridgeport 2:9 channels 13:2
attorney 29:8 14:29 15:19,19,17 brown 10:1 channels 13:2 attorney 29:8 15:10 16:15,20 brown 10:1 chemical 7:19
29:11 15:10 10:13,20 browning 1:9 cherry 2:4
atv 27:12 19:7.22 24:24 btj 15:14 chesapeake
atvs 26:21 25:12.23 26:4 build 14:16 17:16.18
27:17,19 26:5 27:10 building 9:4 chris 10:5.8
avenue16:11Lois 27.10buildings5:4chuck1:13
4:18 8:5

citizens 17:12	complimentary	cost 15:17	delran 27:24
city 24:1,9	18:8	council 1:12	dep 4:12 6:7
close 25:11	component	16:17 24:13	8:7 10:7,7,22
closed 6:12	18:12	counsel 3:12	11:2 15:22
11:23 14:5	components	20:23 29:8,11	18:24 19:6,14
closing 12:6	19:20	county 8:7,8	20:7,13,17
closure 10:21	compost 6:3,5	couple 11:24	26:1
11:3,5,20 14:6	concerns 24:17	course 9:1	department 9:3
cohn 2:2	conclude 28:12	10:13 11:14	departments
color 5:17,18	concluded	court 1:16 29:4	11:1,2
combining 7:8	28:17	29:17	depascale 1:16
come 10:18	concludes	covered 20:17	29:4,17
16:12	20:15	20:22	deptford 7:2
comes 12:14,23	conditions 4:1	create 4:20	8:8,12 15:23
coming 28:15	4:17,18	7:11 19:7,17	19:18 20:1
comments 20:5	conduct 3:15	creating 18:9	design 26:15,18
28:11	construction	credit 9:11	26:19
commercial	9:21	creek 7:18,20	designate 13:21
16:9,22	consultant 9:24	12:12 13:20	designated
commonwealth	contact 19:13	16:6 17:13,17	15:15
29:18	contamination	18:21 21:18	destined 8:16
company 14:19	7:19	culvert 12:19	details 16:23
compensation	contemplated	current 11:11	25:13
4:3,21 15:21	11:9 13:13	currently 7:6	developable
19:4	contested 9:12	d	13:15
complete 5:1	continuous	day 14:22	developed
completed 5:3	7:10	dealing 26:1	11:11 19:2
5:7	controls 13:1	dear 10:2	developing
completely	conveyance	decide 25:2	10:20
26:18	13:2	dedicated	development
completing	coolidge 9:15	22:16	2:5 3:7 5:4,7
19:4	cooper 24:9	delaware 18:20	14:20,20,23
completion	cooperatively	18:22,23 27:21	15:2,4 16:22
10:18	8:9	29:18	18:17 22:1
	1		

different 5:16	dreams 8:1	esquire 2:2	field 13:14
16:4,16	drive 27:4	estuary 17:14	filipek 14:21
direct 17:13	driveway 16:5	et 5:5	filled 19:16
19:12 20:8	21:18	evening 3:1,10	filling 19:11
direnzo 21:4,8	dry 11:21 12:2	eventually 9:13	final 3:15
22:9,21 23:17	due 19:8	16:8 21:19	finally 13:24
24:4,16	e	everybody	24:12
disabled 26:17	e 29:1	11:16	financially
discourage		examples 27:22	15:16 29:12
27:11	early 4:14	except 14:3	find 14:7
discussed 18:4	earp 2:2	17:8	first 7:17,24
display 13:7	earpcohn.com	excepting 5:1	10:1 11:22
14:10 21:15	2:5	exchange 6:7	16:4
diversion 3:19	easier 26:17	6:19 19:23	five 4:8
3:20 4:2,11,15	east 1:9	exciting 14:13	flat 13:12
5:14 6:6,16 7:5	effort 7:22	existing 7:8	folks 15:3
10:23 11:8	elected 8:5	16:5 21:17	16:17,24 17:20
18:12 19:4,21	elements 26:18	expect 24:23	17:20 18:9
20:6,16	elevate 9:14	experience	follow 21:23
diverting 19:21	employed 29:8	25:24	foregoing 29:5
division 1:23	29:12	explain 21:12	29:6
11:4	employee 29:11	extension 16:11	formalized
dnogowski 2:5	enables 14:16	f	15:12
doing 15:10	ended 13:11,17		former 14:21
20:13	engineer 10:6	f 29:1	formerly 6:12
dollars 15:19	engrained 7:10	facility 6:3	18:2
15:20	enjoyed 28:5	factored 26:10	forms 5:6
don 3:6,11	ensure 11:20	familiar 11:18	forth 18:10
23:23 25:7	15:17	fax 1:23	forward 14:1
donald 2:2	entered 14:23	fearful 19:1	four 15:13
dot 9:3,12	entire 4:19	feet 11:24	freedom 24:8
dot's 9:12	10:11 12:6	12:22	frequent 24:4
doubt 25:5	entity 15:13	fenced 23:18	friend 10:2
drains 13:3	environmental	fencing 23:19	friends 16:15
	2:7 9:23,24	23:21	25:12
	10:8		

fronts 18:23	golkow 1:23,24	hearings 20:11	initially 16:4
fully 3:18 4:19	good 3:1,10	hey 25:7 27:8	installation
funding 5:21	13:6 20:9	highway 9:5	12:18
further 28:10	27:22	hill 2:4	installed 25:23
29:7,10	grade 12:9,10	historic 11:10	instance 26:21
future 5:4,11	great 21:7 28:9	history 11:18	instrumental
14:14	green 1:2 3:3	howard 2:12	10:3
g	3:16,19,19,21	i	intended 3:17
	3:23 4:12,15		23:10
gary 10:1	4:17 5:21,22	important	interested
gates 17:6	5:23 6:18,22	11:19	29:12
gazebos 17:4	6:24 7:1,4,7,7	improve 12:20	interfere 26:3
generally 26:2	8:15 13:19	improved 14:4	internal 22:2
getting 17:9	18:2	improvements	investments
21:5,9	ground 4:7,7	4:10 12:16	4:10
give 10:9	6:20,20 7:11	16:1,2 18:11	invite 9:22
given 4:4	13:14 18:15	18:13,14 19:24	involved 12:18
giving 4:6	25:8	include 16:2,23	19:11 24:10
gloucester 8:7	guys 12:11 25:2	includes 5:4	involvement
24:1,9	h	6:21 15:23	20:8
go 13:3 16:24		16:1 17:3	island 27:24
17:15,20,20	half 8:13	including 15:6	israel 18:1
18:9 21:22	handicap 26:8	incumbent	issue 24:5 25:3
22:21 23:2,4	26:11	3:22 5:22	25:17 26:21
23:12 26:22	happy 21:11	indicating 5:8	issues 28:6
27:3,8	hard 8:5	5:13,18,19	
goal 8:20	harder 8:9	6:22 9:5 11:14	j
goals 7:14	harding 9:16	11:15,16,17	jberg 2:10
going 8:17	head 21:21	13:16,18 16:6	jenn 9:22 10:7
12:11 13:15,16	22:6 24:22	16:12 19:10,23	jennifer 2:7
14:3 21:19	heads 23:14	21:20,24 22:3	jersey 1:1,10
22:3,12 23:14	28:3	22:4,24 23:6	2:4,9 9:3
23:17 24:13	hearing 3:15,16	industrially	jogging 27:16
25:6,19 26:9	3:17 20:2 21:6	19:2	joint 16:20
26:20,22,23	28:17	informed 3:18	july 1:5
	20.17		July 1.0
27:1,7	20.17		July 1.5

[1
jump 24:3	law 3:21	lots 7:9	mile 16:3
jumping 24:8	lay 24:18	lsrp 10:5,17	million 15:18
junction 15:14	leachate 7:18	m	15:20
k	7:18 12:4,4	made 13:20	minus 18:19
karen 1:17	leaching 7:19	main 7:14 11:2	minutes 10:10
kayak 18:10	left 11:24 13:5	maintained	missing 9:4
keebler 1:17	legally 6:15	9:17	mitigation 19:8
key 15:7 18:12	level 17:3 22:14	major 12:18	mix 12:3
kind 9:8 18:10	licensed 11:6	14:18	moment 15:24
25:1	lighting 17:4	make 3:17 7:22	monday 1:5
know 7:15	25:17,20,22	12:1 13:14	months 16:21
11:12 12:17	26:2,5	20:2 26:16	mou 14:24
13:5 17:24	lisa 1:16 29:4		move 9:13 14:1
13:3 17:24 18:2,8,11	29:17	making 8:21 manager 2:7	moves 9:4
20:16 22:16,18	literally 24:7	10:16	municipal 2:12
23:13 25:15,16	little 14:12	managing 12:7	11:21
25:19 26:6	18:21	managing 12:7 mayor 1:13 3:1	municipalities
	llc 14:21 15:14	3:9 14:21	20:9
27:8,14,16	local 20:8	16:17 18:5	municipality
28:3,5 known 7:4 8:14	located 26:9	20:19,21 24:15	20:3,13
knows 20:13	long 2:12 9:18	,	n
	14:17 20:23,24	27:1 28:12,13 28:15	n 29:1
<u>l</u>	23:23 24:6		
land 8:15 13:15	25:3 26:21	meaning 13:1	name 3:11
15:22 16:20	27:12	16:23 23:2	15:13
19:4 24:18	look 24:14	meeting 1:2 3:4	named 14:19
landfill 7:17,20	26:24	25:16 28:12	natural 17:11
9:6,14 10:21	looked 27:23	meetings 16:16	22:16
11:3,5,10,20	looks 5:11	members 1:12	nature 17:22
12:7 14:6	lot 5:13,14,16	3:18 16:16	26:14
landfills 6:11	5:19 6:2,8,8,17	20:3 21:1	nearby 17:12
11:18 15:3	6:17,21,24 7:2	memorandum	necessary 9:2
lands 24:3	7:4,6,8 8:13,14	14:24	19:13
late 10:1 11:14	22:22	mid 11:13	need 5:23 12:10
		middle 17:7	needed 12:9

neither 29:7	once 17:2,16	17:3,5,11 18:4	pass 27:1
never 6:9,12	open 13:21	18:6,11,13,14	passed 10:2
11:10,22 17:19	22:16,17	19:24,24 26:13	24:1,12
new 1:1,10 2:4	operated 6:4	26:16,17 27:7	past 20:7
2:9 4:20 9:2	11:11,12 15:3	27:14 28:1	pennsylvania
10:11 12:21	orange 5:18 6:8	parking 5:5	29:18
14:10 16:10	order 4:21 8:10	16:2,24 21:19	people 23:11
19:7,17,23	ordinance 24:2	22:5 23:8 26:8	24:8 27:7,16
21:15 22:2	24:7,12 27:1	26:12	28:6
nice 13:19	orient 11:16	parkland 3:22	perfect 13:20
27:13	original 23:9	3:22 4:3,20 5:9	permit 9:9 11:5
night 23:24	originally 9:4	5:11,22 6:9,10	permitted 3:20
nj 9:3	15:11 23:15	6:13,15 8:16	17:8 26:22
njdep 15:1	overall 15:8	17:2	ph 1:23
18:16	overlook 17:1	parklands	phase 4:24
nogowski 2:2	22:4 26:12	10:12	photos 5:10
3:6,8,11 14:9	overlooks	parks 26:1	picture 13:6
14:10 20:23	16:23	27:19,21	pictures 5:9
21:1,6,11,17	oversight 10:7	part 4:21 5:6	picturesque
22:14,19,23	owned 5:19	5:20 6:2,10,21	17:19
23:19 24:21	15:6	7:4 8:16,17	piece 3:22
25:4,9,11,21	р	15:7,9,20	pier 24:5,8
26:11 27:4,10	p.c. 2:2	16:19 18:14	pipe 12:22
27:15,20 28:14	p.c. 2.2 p.m. 1:6 28:17	22:1 23:22	piping 12:21
north 15:19	parameters	26:19	place 14:23
notary 29:17	26:15	particular 4:11	plan 5:9 10:21
note 8:11	parcel 5:15	10:11 16:14	10:21 14:6,6
0	8:12 15:23	parties 29:9	15:8 16:14,19
o 29:1	18:15,24 19:19	partner 9:2	16:21 21:4,8
occurring 25:1	20:1	partnership	23:22 25:22
occurs 16:8	park 4:9 7:11	14:18	planned 5:3
officially 17:8	7:12,13 8:21	parts 14:13	10:23
officials 8:6	8:21 9:8 14:14	15:6 19:14	plans 9:12
okay 22:23	14:16 15:17,18	party 15:2	16:18
25:15 28:13	16:1,2,18,22		
23.13 20.13	10.1,2,10,22		

players 14:18	27:17	publishes 26:16	regarded 10:1
please 10:9	problems 28:7	purchase 18:18	regarding 4:9
pleased 3:14	proceed 4:22	purpose 3:24	8:19
4:23 8:4 9:19	proceeding	4:2 19:3	regulations
plenty 25:19	29:6,10	put 14:22 24:6	3:21 4:13
plus 18:19	proceeds 5:7	putting 14:10	11:12 20:10
po 2:9	process 3:20	21:15	related 29:8
point 3:14	4:14,14 9:1,19	q	relative 29:11
15:19 16:5,12	9:20 12:6	questions 20:20	relatively 13:12
16:13 21:21	professional	20:24 21:2	relief 16:11
points 16:4	10:6 11:7		remain 7:7
portion 7:2	program 3:7	28:11	remedial 10:20
portions 13:12	11:3,7	r	14:5
13:16	project 2:7	r 29:1	remediate 7:17
position 13:24	3:13 4:22 5:1	rain 12:14	remediated
possible 8:4	9:24 10:15,16	raised 25:18	4:19
precluded 9:6,7	10:18 14:14	ratio 4:5	remediation
preliminary	promote 12:13	ready 9:20	4:24 7:21 9:9
4:16	proper 9:9	25:13	10:10 11:3,6,7
prepared 4:20	properly 6:12	really 13:6	14:2 15:5,10
present 1:12	11:23 12:9	17:18	19:9,9,14
2:7 3:7	property 8:1,19	reason 5:2 11:8	reminds 17:17
presentation	17:24	12:1 27:18	removed 6:19
20:16	proposed 6:6	recommending	replacement
preserve 17:23	9:4 14:16 20:5	24:13	4:7 6:20,20 7:9
17:23 19:1	provide 17:11	redeveloper	report 4:23
preserved 7:23	20:10 27:22	7:15 10:4	9:19
18:2,18	providing 8:2	15:15	reporter 1:16
preserving	public 3:17,18	redevelopers	29:4,17
7:13	4:2,67:14,23	8:7	representing
prevent 17:7	8:2 9:16 14:17	redevelopment	2:5
private 8:6	20:4,5,12 21:2	3:12 13:14	request 6:24
10:6 14:18	24:3 27:5	14:4 15:12	8:15 19:3
probably 3:13	28:11 29:17	16:8,9	requested
15:18 24:10			18:16

[require - subdivided]

		1	
require 23:1	rules 28:9	services 2:7	solicit 20:5
required 19:6	run 13:17	set 16:18	solicitor 2:12
23:20	runnemede	sets 3:24	solid 11:4
requirements	18:5,6	setting 17:2	sons 18:1
4:9	runoff 12:14	several 5:15 6:4	sorry 8:24 21:6
requires 28:9	runs 12:19,21	16:16,20	sort 14:15
residents 24:11	S	shade 17:4	south 18:21
responsible	safe 23:13	sharp 25:7,10	22:6
15:16		25:15 26:7,20	space 13:22
rest 22:15	safely 6:13	27:6,13,18	18:3 22:17
restricting 27:2	safety 24:17	side 13:10 18:7	special 25:16
restrictions	25:3 26:20	22:2	specifically
6:19	sauter 1:13 3:1	sidewalks 5:5	18:16
review 14:15	16:17 20:21	signature 29:16	spoke 25:17
reviewed 16:15	28:13,15	similar 18:6	spots 26:12
right 9:5 13:6	saying 26:23,24	23:21 24:14	standing 14:17
21:9 22:9,15	27:6,9	28:2	stanley 9:15
22:15 24:20,21	scope 1:2 3:3	sir 21:3,7	start 9:20
27:13,15 28:10	scoping 3:15,16 20:11	site 4:19 5:8	started 25:14
river 18:20,23	second 16:13	6:11 9:10 10:7	state 17:22
18:23 24:9		10:11,22 11:3	27:19 28:1
27:22	22:5,5 secondly 7:22	11:5,6,9,22	stays 11:21
road 1:9 2:3,8	secured 17:6	12:8,9,10,15,20	12:2
9:13 12:12	see 10:17 12:11	13:12 15:6	steepness 22:24
16:6,10,10	12:12 13:10,18	16:19,21 25:22	step 4:13
17:7 21:18	27:19	sites 23:21	stop 7:17
roads 9:16	seem 28:6	situation 4:5	stormwater
roadway 22:2,3	seen 23:20	slope 13:19,21	12:3,8,13,19,21
roadways 5:5	senior 2:7	23:1,3	13:1,2,4
route 11:15,16	10:16	slopes 12:12	straight 23:3,8
12:19,22 18:7	sense 13:20	13:11,17 22:10	streets 27:5
rt 2:7 9:23,23	separate 8:12	soil 11:24	structure 14:15
10:8	8:18	solar 17:4	14:22
rtenv.com. 2:10	service 26:16	25:22 26:5	subdivided
			6:23 7:3 8:14

Page 10

auh	thin ag 20.17	40,000 17.5	undowston der
submit 8:19	things 20:17	town 17:5	understanding
16:19	23:23	20:14	15:1
suite 2:3,8	think 13:9	towns 17:12	undertake 15:5
support 4:2	20:15,17 21:13	trail 16:3 21:21	unfortunately
sure 3:17 7:22	22:20 27:8,20	21:22 22:6,12	8:3
11:17 12:1,10	28:12	22:17 23:2,9	use 6:2 16:20
20:2	thinking 22:20	23:14 24:22,23	used 6:10,13
surfaced 12:24	third 18:14	28:2,3	utilized 3:23
surprised	thousands 28:5	trails 17:3	v
23:24	three 6:11	transactions	valid 4:1
surprises 20:12	19:20	5:16	veritext 1:23
swap 15:23	threw 11:23	transcribed	veritext.com
19:5	tidal 17:14	1:16	1:24
swift 25:5	19:12 24:3	transcript 29:5	vetted 16:15
swimming	25:4,5 28:2	transportation	
17:21 24:24	timber 7:18	9:3	videographer
25:6	13:20 15:14,16	trash 12:3	1:17
switchback	17:13 18:21	19:12	voluntarily
23:2,5,5,7	time 3:5 18:5,6	true 29:5	15:4
system 28:3	20:21	trying 23:12	W
systems 13:4	today 8:3,10	24:18	walk 23:7
t	10:5 12:11	turn 3:5	walking 16:3
	13:24 14:8	two 4:13 8:13	27:16
t 29:1,1	27:5	11:1 16:3	want 12:1,14
taken 29:10	together 8:8	23:14,15,16	23:11 25:6
talk 14:12	told 7:15	typical 4:5	wanted 14:15
talked 28:4	tonight 3:3	typically 4:1	17:5 18:24
talking 13:10	took 5:10		wants 25:23
tell 13:2 25:24	top 5:2,3,6	u	26:5
testimony	13:16 14:3	u.s. 26:16	ward 10:5
22:11	16:24 22:1	under 3:20,24	waste 11:4,21
thank 3:8 10:14	23:17	10:7,17 11:4	12:2,5
14:9 28:14,15	total 8:21	11:11	water 5:10 12:3
thing 8:24	totally 7:21	underneath	12:5 13:3 17:3
18:10 20:10	1.21	10:17	19:12 21:22,23

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
22:14 23:9	25:12
26:2	worked 8:8
waterfront 2:5	14:21 20:7
3:6 7:11,12,12	working 3:12
7:13,23 8:2 9:7	8:6 10:3,15,17
9:8 14:19,20	25:12
14:23 15:2,4	works 10:8
17:11 18:9,17	X
19:24 21:5,9	x 2:10
21:10 24:19	
27:7,14	<u>y</u>
waters 24:3	yeah 21:13
watershed	24:4,5,16 25:4
18:20,20	26:7 27:6,12
waterskiing	27:20
17:20	year 9:21 25:9
way 4:12 16:14	25:10,14,16
17:22 21:23	years 3:13 4:12
23:11,15,15	4:16,24 6:4
ways 23:12,16	7:16 8:9 9:11
23:16	10:2 12:16
we've 12:15	15:11,13
welcome 3:2	Z
went 24:17	zag 23:4
west 15:23	zig 23:4
19:18 20:1	
wetlands 19:7	
19:8,16,17	
white 5:17	
wildlife 17:23	
26:3	
winds 18:23	
work 4:13 8:5	
10:10,21 11:1	
14:6 19:9,10	

New Jersey Rules Governing Civil Practice Part IV, Rule 4:14 Depositions Upon Oral Examination

4:14-5. Submission to Witness; Changes; Signing If the officer at the taking of the deposition is a certified shorthand reporter, the witness shall not sign the deposition. If the officer is not a certified shorthand reporter, then unless reading and signing of the deposition are waived by stipulation of the parties, the officer shall request the deponent to appear at a stated time for the purpose of reading and signing it. At that time or at such later time as the officer and witness agree upon, the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by the witness, and any changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make shall be entered upon the deposition by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making them. The deposition shall then be signed by the witness. If the witness fails to appear at the time stated or if the deposition is not signed by the witness, the officer shall sign it and state on the record the fact of the witness' failure or

refusal to sign, together with the reason, if any, given therefor; and the deposition may then be used as fully as though signed, unless on a motion to suppress under R. 4:16-4(d) the court holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

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