



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

Jan - Feb 2015
Issue 71

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Save the date!

The annual Pinelands
Short Course will
be held

Saturday, March 14, 2015

at the Richard Stockton
College in Galloway
Township.

For more information visit
the Pinelands website at:

www.state.nj.us/pinelands

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PINELANDS WATCH



Commissioner Robert Jackson (left) and Commissioner Gary Quinn (right) at a recent Pinelands Commission meeting.

Pinelands Gubernatorial Nominations Still Pending

Governor Christie made nominations to replace two Pinelands Commissioners, Robert Jackson and D'Arcy Rohan Green on May 19, 2014. These commissioners stood up to political pressure and voted to defend the Pinelands Plan by voting against the South Jersey Gas pipeline project in January 2014. The Commission voted down the memorandum of agreement by a vote of 7-7. Actions of the Pinelands Commission require eight affirmative votes to be approved.

Ms. Green was appointed by Governor Christie just two years ago, along with Gary Quinn. Both of their terms expired June 2013. Gary Quinn voted "yes" to the pipeline project but the governor has not named a replacement for his position. Robert Jackson was appointed in June 2008 and lives in Cape May County. Senator Jeff Van Drew, who represents Cape May County, has been advocating for the pipeline project ever since it was voted down.

It is clear the governor seeks to punish and remove people who served the public with integrity because they voted to enforce the protections of the Pinelands rules - protections they are bound to implement faithfully and consistently. Ms. Green and Mr. Jackson have strong environmental backgrounds and an understanding of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) regulations. Replacing such qualified public servants in order to please corporations with development plans is not good government and not justified. It is a direct attack on the Pinelands protections.

The new Pinelands Commission nominees, Robert Barr and Dennis Roohr, are from Cape May and Burlington County, respectively. Mr. Barr volunteered with Senator Van Drew in his office and knows the Senator very well. He also serves on the Ocean City Utility Advisory Commission. Mr. Roohr is a

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farmer and the Mayor in Hanover Township.

These nominees were placed on the Senate Judiciary Committee agenda on October 16, 2014. Senate Judiciary Committee members including Senator Nicholas Scutari (chair), Senator Chris Bateman, Senator Nia Gill (vice-chair), Senator Nellie Pou, Senator Bob Smith and Senator Loretta Weinberg did an excellent job of interviewing the nominees and expressed grave concerns about the apparent link between their nominations and the South Jersey Gas pipeline project. Their concerns were so great that the committee decided to not vote on the nominees and tabled them for a later time. It is unclear when and IF the nominees will be scheduled for a vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee. These nominations expire in January 2015 but can they can be re-nominated by the governor at any time.

South Jersey Gas remains confident that the pipeline will happen and has expressed such sentiments publicly. The replacement of Ms. Green and Mr. Jackson can change the vote if the application is again presented to the Pinelands Commission.

Before the Senate returns from their holiday recess, it is critical that you call your local Senator and Senate President Sweeney to ask them to uphold good government and prevent these nominations from moving forward. Public servants who uphold the rules in the face of extreme pressure should be rewarded not punished.

What can you do?

Please contact:

- Senate President Steve Sweeney - SenSweeney@njleg.org - (856) 251-9801
- Your local Senator can be found at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>



About the SJ Gas Pipeline

The 22-mile pipeline project was proposed to bring natural gas to the BL England power plant on the shore of the Great Egg Harbor River in Upper Township, Cape May County. This plant is owned by Rockland Capital Energy Investments LLC, a Texas-based company which bought the plant for an investment. The proposal presented to the Pinelands Commission would have had the Commission and the Board of Public Utilities entering into a memorandum of agreement allowing South Jersey Gas to build the pipeline through the Pinelands Forest Management Area with the offset of \$8 million dollars.

Get Involved!

Attend a Pinelands Commission Meeting
2015 Meeting Schedule

Friday, January 16, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, July 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, August 14, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, September 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, November 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Pinelands Commission meetings are held at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education, 15C Springfield Road, New Lisbon. Agendas are posted one week prior to the meeting date at:

www.state.nj.us/pinelands/about/mtng/

Robert Jackson

Robert Jackson was appointed in June 2008, and is a resident of Middle Township in Cape May County. Mr. Jackson served as the Mayor of West Cape May from 2001-2005. He is currently the Legal Redress Chairman of the Cape May County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and is the President of the Board of Cape Human Resources. In addition he serves as a member of the New Jersey Natural Areas Council.

Mr. Jackson is an avid surf fisherman with a background in marine environmental studies and is a former owner of a surf fishing center.

Mr. Jackson has attended nearly all of the 76 monthly meetings of the Commission, and has missed 8 meetings. Mr. Jackson serves on the Commission's Policy and Implementation Committee and serves as an alternate on the Plan Review Committee attending all the scheduled meetings. He also served as a member of the Pinelands Commission's Personnel and Budget Committee in 2012.

Mr. Jackson's Statement on South Jersey Gas vote from the Pinelands Commission meeting minutes of January 10, 2014:

Commissioner Jackson raised a number of issues regarding the MOA that made him feel uncomfortable, starting with that fact that South Jersey Gas is a business rather than a government entity. He was not sure collaborating with a business was something that should be done. He said that South Jersey Gas should have come to the Commission first, not last. He said the creation of jobs and a strong grid are not in our purview. He said he will be making his decision based on the rules and his personal integrity.



Editor: Theresa Lettman

Distributed to members of the Pinelands Watch Network and other members of the public. If you would like to receive these alerts, please contact Theresa Lettman at (609) 859-8860 Ext 22 or

theresa@pinelandsalliance.org.

Prior issues are available at: www.pinelandsalliance.org

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D'Arcy Rohan Green

D'Arcy Rohan Green was appointed to the Pinelands Commission in July 2011. She is a resident of Bay Head, and currently serves on the Bay Head Borough Council. Ms. Green served as member of the Borough's Environmental Commission and Planning Board before being elected to council.

A former dune consultant/inspector and former newspaper reporter/columnist, Ms. Green serves on the Board of Directors for Save Barnegat Bay and is an advisory member of Clean Ocean Action and the New Jersey Environmental Federation. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from New York University.

Ms. Green serves as a member of the Pinelands Commission's Personnel and Budget Committee and as an alternate on the CMP Policy and Implementation Committee.

Since being appointed in July 2011, she attended 22 of the 39 meetings held. It is understandable that she missed 17 meetings since she lost the use of her home in October of 2012 as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

Ms. Rohan Green's Statement on South Jersey Gas MOA vote from the Pinelands Commission meeting minutes of January 10, 2014:

Commissioner Rohan Green said since the day Governor Christie appointed her to this Commission, not a day goes by that she doesn't feel grateful for the honorable privilege. Commissioner Rohan Green said Governor Christie often uses the word principles, as did Commissioner Ashmun today. She said her principles guide her and are her compass. "I feel duty bound to honor the sacred mission of the Pinelands Commission. I do not support this MOA and I vote No.," she said.

Upcoming Pinelands Commission CMP Policy and Implementation Committee Meetings

Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, January 30, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 27, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 27, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Meetings are held at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education, 15C Springfield Road, New Lisbon. Agendas are posted one week prior to the meeting date at:

www.state.nj.us/pinelands/about/mtng/

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Sponsors receive a copy of The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural DVD
Patrons receive John McPhee's seminal book *The Pine Barrens*
Benefactors receive The Pine Barrens of New Jersey, a photographic history of this region
Chairman's Circle will receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands



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