

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-17**

**ORDINANCE CREATING JOINT OPEN SPACE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH HOPEWELL  
BOROUGH AND HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, Pennington Borough seeks to establish a joint open space advisory committee with Hopewell Township and Hopewell Borough;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington, as follows:

**1. Creation of Joint Advisory Committee.**

There is hereby established an open space advisory committee within the Borough of Pennington, which shall be a joint committee composed of representatives of the Borough of Pennington, the Borough of Hopewell and the Township of Hopewell.

**2. Purpose.**

It is the intent of the Borough and the participating municipalities to embark upon a long range program in order to acquire and preserve natural resources to manage the pace of growth, enhance property values and otherwise benefit the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough of Pennington, the Borough of Hopewell and the Township of Hopewell.

**3. Membership; Quorum; Removal.**

**a. Membership and Appointment.** The open space advisory committee shall be composed of nine regular members, consisting of five regular members appointed from Hopewell Township, two regular members appointed from Hopewell Borough and two regular members appointed from Pennington Borough. The two Pennington Borough regular members shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Borough Council. The appointment of the five Hopewell Township regular members and the two Hopewell Borough regular members shall be as set forth by their respective governing bodies.

**b. Alternate Members.** There shall be two Pennington Borough alternate members who shall be appointed in the same manner as the regular members. The alternate members may participate in all committee discussions but may not vote except in the absence or disqualification of a regular member. A vote shall not be delayed in order that a regular member may vote instead of an alternate member.

**c. Terms; Vacancies.** The terms of the regular members for the Borough of Pennington shall initially be as follows: one member shall serve for a three-year term and one member shall serve for a two-year term. Thereafter, all future Pennington Borough regular members shall be appointed to a three-year term. The alternate members shall serve for a term not exceeding three years duration. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the initial appointment. The terms of the non-Pennington Borough regular and alternate members shall be as set forth by the governing bodies of Hopewell Township and Hopewell Borough, respectively.

**d. Quorum.** The presence of five members, which may include alternate members filling in for regular members, shall constitute a quorum.

**e. Removal.** A member of Pennington Borough's delegation to the committee may, after a public hearing if requested, be removed for cause by a majority vote of the Pennington Borough Council.

**4. Operating Procedures.**

**a. Officers.** The joint open space advisory committee shall select from its members a chairperson and vice-chairperson to serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the chairperson. The committee shall also select a secretary whose function shall be to manage minutes of the committee's meetings and records of the proceedings of the committee.

**b. Initial Organization Meeting.** The joint committee shall coordinate its initial organization meeting with its partner municipalities.

**c. Meetings.** The committee shall hold public meetings which shall be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**5. Powers and Duties.**

The open space advisory committee shall:

**a. Study and determine the existence of farmland and open space properties within the area.**

**b.** Make recommendations to the governing bodies of the three participating municipalities as to those properties which it has determined meet the criteria for possible acquisition, whether in fee, by easement or by means of development rights.

**c.** Prepare a farmland and open space plan, which shall be submitted to the governing bodies of the three participating municipalities on an annual basis. The plan shall contain an updated inventory of farmland and open space properties within the area, and include recommendations for the acquisition or preservation of certain land, whether in fee, by easement or by means of development rights.

**d.** Establish a farmland and open space tracking program to catalog the status of privately owned farmland and open space in the area and record the progress of the participating municipalities with respect to farmland and open space preservation.

**e.** Provide guidance and support to their governing bodies and planning boards on issues and matters of farmland and open space.

**f.** Perform such other advisory duties as are requested by the governing bodies and planning boards of the participating municipalities.

Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Advertised: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Hearing: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Published: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Sterling, Borough Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Davy, Mayor

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**RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON INTRODUCTION**

<b>COUNCILMAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>N.V.</b>	<b>A.B.</b>	<b>COUNCILMAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>N.V.</b>	<b>A.B.</b>
Angarone					Marciante				
Chandler					Stern				
Gnatt					Valenza				

**RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON ADOPTION**

<b>COUNCILMAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>N.V.</b>	<b>A.B.</b>	<b>COUNCILMAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>N.V.</b>	<b>A.B.</b>
Angarone					Marciante				
Chandler					Stern				
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