

TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN

ORDINANCE NO. 5-2026

**AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE VII ENTITLED
“COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES”
TO CREATE THE “OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE”**

WHEREAS, the Township of Moorestown (“Township”) is fortunate to have a large number of highly qualified and dedicated residents who volunteer for various Boards and Committees; and

WHEREAS, the work of these Boards and Committees provides valuable assistance to the Township Council; and

WHEREAS, to most efficiently utilize the time and talents of the volunteers, the Township Council finds it appropriate to amend various provisions of Chapter 6 by combining the functions of the existing Moorestown Environmental Advisory Committee with the Open Space Advisory Committee and creating a consolidated body entitled the “Open Space Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Committee.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1: §6-45.3 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

§6-45.3 Open Space Conservation and Environmental Stewardship.

A. Purpose; name.

- (1) The purpose of the Open Space Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Committee is to advise and assist the Township Council, Manager, Planning Board, Zoning Board and any other municipal department, committee or officials on environmental issues, conservation matters, and open space preservation and acquisition.
- (2) This committee shall coordinate its activities with Save the Environment of Moorestown also commonly known as STEM, its mission and objectives while fulfilling its advisory role to Township government.

B. Establishment; membership; terms of office; vacancies.

- (1) There is hereby established the Open Space Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Committee which shall consist of eight (8) regular members and one (1) Council liaison all of whom shall be appointed by the Township Council

- (2) Members shall be residents of the Township of Moorestown, shall serve without salary or other compensation and shall each be removed from office by the Township Council at any time, with or without cause, upon a vote of a majority of all the members of Township Council.
- (3) Committee members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, which shall be staggered so that approximately half of members' terms expire on December 31 of alternating years. The Township Council liaison shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year that expires on December 31 of each year and shall not be considered a regular member; nor shall the liaison have any voting authority or be included in the number of members needed to establish a quorum.
- (4) Committee members should be residents who have demonstrated expertise or background in environmental science, conservation, land use planning, or related fields.

C. Organization; officers; meetings.

- (1) An organization meeting shall be held annually during January or as soon as possible after the reorganization meeting of Township Council. At such meeting, the committee shall appoint at least a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary from among the committee members and may appoint other officers and/or subcommittees as members deem appropriate. The committee shall schedule at least one regular meeting each month. Committee procedures shall mirror the Open Public Meetings Act. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum.
- (2) The committee shall keep minutes of all its proceedings and will provide a copy to the Township Manager or their designee for posting on the Township website.
- (3) The committee shall provide reports to STEM as requested on its activities and recommendations.
- (4) A staff member to the committee shall be provided at the discretion of the Township Manager.

D. Powers and duties. The committee is established to assist in the protection, development and use of natural resources. In order to carry out these purposes, the committee shall have the following functions:

- (1) Promoting the conservation and careful management of the natural resources of the Township.

- (2) Planning and implementing programs to educate the public about local conservation programs and environmental issues.
- (3) Maintaining an up-to-date inventory of the Township's natural resources, including all relevant mapping and documentation.
- (4) Advising the Township on expenditures from the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.
- (5) Developing and maintaining a prioritized list of parcels within the Township that may be appropriate for acquisition for open space, recreation, farmland and historic preservation, including assessment of ecological significance, development pressure, acquisition feasibility, and funding opportunities.
- (6) Monitoring and evaluating opportunities for open space, recreation, farmland and historic preservation through purchase, donation, conservation easements, and other mechanisms, and making recommendations to Township Council regarding such opportunities.
- (7) Provide input to the Planning Board on the Master Plan and long-range planning, with particular emphasis on environmental protection and open space preservation.
- (8) Rendering nonbinding opinions with respect to any complete application before the Planning Board and Zoning Board within thirty (30) calendar days of such application being sent to the committee.
- (9) Acting as a clearinghouse and resource for the community on local environmental issues and conservation opportunities.
- (10) Assessing and recommending appropriate management practices for existing Township-owned open space and conservation areas.
- (11) Leading the efforts to update the Township's Environmental Resources Inventory every ten (10) years as directed by the Township Council or Manager.
- (12) Supporting STEM's broader environmental education and advocacy mission by providing technical expertise and governmental liaison services as requested by STEM.
- (13) Performing such other duties as directed by the Township Council or Manager.

Section 2: All other sections of Chapter 6 shall remain as written.

Section 3: Repealer. Any and all other ordinances inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4: Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effect upon proper publication and in accordance with law.

Section 5: Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known as Ordinance No. 5-2026.

NOTICE

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, held on February 9, 2026. This ordinance will be further considered for final passage by the Township Council, after a public hearing thereon, at a meeting to be held at 111 West Second Street, Moorestown, NJ on February 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm or at any date, time and place to which such meeting may be adjourned. For those attending virtually or telephonically, the agenda for said meeting will provide instructions for public participation; all persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning such ordinance. The ordinance may be viewed in full on the Township's website at www.moorestown.nj.us. In addition, during the week prior to and including the date of such further consideration, copies will be available from the Municipal Clerk's Office to any member of the general public who shall request such copies.

Patricia L. Hunt, RMC
Township Clerk