

Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission Legislation

13:15B-1. Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission created

1. a. The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission, a body corporate and politic with corporate succession, is created in the Division of Parks and Forestry of the Department of Environmental Protection. The commission is an instrumentality exercising public and essential governmental functions. Exercise by the commission of the powers conferred by this act is deemed to be an essential governmental function of the State.

b. The commission shall consist of the following nine members: the Director of the Division of Parks and Forestry or the director's designee; one representative each from the County of Bergen, the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, River Edge Borough, and New Milford Borough; and two representatives each from the Bergen County Historical Society and Teaneck Township. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The members of the commission shall elect annually a chairman and vice-chairman from their number, and a secretary and treasurer who need not be members of the commission. The same person may be elected to serve both as secretary and treasurer. The chairman of the commission shall be its presiding officer and the vice-chairman shall serve as chairman in the absence of the chairman. The commission shall organize and adopt procedures for the conduct of its business. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum and the concurrence of five members of the commission shall be necessary to validate all acts of the commission.

L.1995,c.260,s.1.

13:15B-2. Objectives, jurisdiction of commission

2. a. The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission shall coordinate and implement federal, State, county, municipal, and private development policies and other activities relating to the historic preservation and recreational use of the property under the commission's jurisdiction.

b. The commission has jurisdiction over the area in Bergen County known as New Bridge Landing, in the Borough of River Edge, between Main Street and Hackensack Avenue and extending into Teaneck Township and the Borough of New Milford, the area being situated along the banks of the Hackensack River.

L.1995,c.260,s.2.

13:15B-3 Powers of commission.

3. The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission shall have the following powers:

- a. To sue and be sued in its own name, but the members of the commission shall be held harmless for acts performed in good faith;
- b. To adopt a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
- c. To adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;
- d. To maintain an office or offices at such place or places within the State as it may designate;
- e. To appoint officers, who need not be members of the commission, in addition to a secretary and a treasurer, as the commission deems advisable, and to employ other employees and agents as may be necessary or desirable in its judgment, to fix their compensation, and to promote and discharge officers, employees and agents all without regard to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes;
- f. To acquire in the name of the commission, hold and dispose of real and personal property in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this act;
- g. To make, enter into, and perform all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this act, including agreements to indemnify and hold harmless a local government unit against any claim arising from the use of property leased from that local government unit by the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission;
- h. To request the State Historic Preservation Officer to place the lands and buildings under the commission's jurisdiction on the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to the "National Historic Preservation Act," Pub.L.89-665 (16 U.S.C. s.470 et al.), as amended and supplemented by the "National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980," Pub.L.96-515, and the "National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1992," Pub.L.102-575, or any future amendments or supplements thereto;
- i. To acquire and hold real and personal property by gift, purchase, devise, bequest, or by other means and to preserve and administer these properties;
- j. To conduct public information and education programs relating to the historic nature of the property under the commission's jurisdiction;
- k. To apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for grants from the Green Acres or historic preservation bond programs or other appropriate funding sources, for the purpose of acquisitions pursuant to subsection f. of this section or for the purposes of development, preservation, or maintenance of those acquired properties; and

1. To do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted in this act.

L.1995,c.260,s.3; amended 2000, c.158, s.1.

13:15B-4 Specific powers of commission.

4. The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission has the specific power to contract for the construction, reconstruction, restoration, or maintenance of all lands, buildings, landscaping, bridges, docks, and facilities under its jurisdiction including the maintenance, restoration, and reconstruction of the Steuben House, the Demarest House, the Campbell-Christie House, the Westervelt-Thomas Barn and the construction and operation of a visitor center, library, mill site, curator's residence, parking area, and other appropriate structures. The Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission also has the specific power to agree to indemnify and hold harmless any local government unit against claims arising from the use of property leased from that local government unit by the commission.

L.1995,c.260,s.4; amended 2000, c.158, s.2.