



## ***New Jersey Pinelands Commission***

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Immediate Release:**

#### **Nicholas Asselta, a Longtime Community Leader from Cumberland County, Sworn In As New Member of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission**

NEW LISBON, N.J. February 10, 2023 – Nicholas Asselta, a former member of the state General Assembly and Senate, was sworn in as a new member of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission during the agency’s meeting today.

“We look forward to working with Mr. Asselta, whose wealth of experience in crafting governmental legislation will be a valuable asset as we continue our work to preserve, protect and enhance the Pinelands,” said Susan R. Grogan, who was appointed as the Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission during the meeting.

The Cumberland County Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution to appoint Mr. Asselta as the County’s representative on the Pinelands Commission on January 24, 2023. He fills the unexpired term of Jane Jannarone, who resigned from the Commission on December 1, 2022.

“I’d like to thank the Cumberland County Board of County Commissioners, Director Douglas Albrecht and Senator Mike Testa for the opportunity to serve on the Commission and to help develop responsible economic development for our county,” Asselta said.

A native of Vineland and the son of a Vineland Police Officer and the city’s first detective, Mr. Asselta graduated from Vineland High School, Cumberland County College, and Frederick Military Academy. He attended Rider College and the Glassboro State College Management Institute. After college, Mr. Asselta worked for 23 years, culminating in his position as Marketing and Production Director for Times Graphics, Inc., a Gannett Company subsidiary. Mr. Asselta has been an educator, a coach and a community leader. From 1978 to 1981, he served as an adjunct faculty member at Atlantic Cape Community College, where he served as the head basketball coach. He was elected to the Vineland Board of Education in 1993, and in 1995 he was sworn in as a member of the New Jersey State Assembly to fill an unexpired term. He was elected to his first full term on the General Assembly in November 1995. Having completed four terms in the General Assembly, Mr. Asselta was sworn in to serve on the New Jersey State Senate in January 2004. He went on to serve as a Commissioner on the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities from 2008-2013, where he fought to maintain affordable utility rates for New Jersey ratepayers while improving the utility infrastructure throughout the state. In 2013, Aqua America asked Mr. Asselta to join the company as president of its New Jersey Division. In November 2016, he was hired as Vice-President of South State, Inc., a major road, bridge, and

utility infrastructure building based in New Jersey. He began working as an independent consultant in 2019, providing services for private, public, and political clients. Numerous community and civic groups have recognized and honored Mr. Asselta for his work, and he continues to serve on The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation.

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency that is charged with protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the 938,000-acre state Pinelands Area, which includes parts or all of 53 municipalities in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.

The Commission's 15-member board consists of seven members who are appointed by the New Jersey Governor, one member appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties, and one member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Commission members are unpaid volunteers who dedicate countless hours of their time and expertise while serving on the Commission.

**\*\*\* ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** High-resolution photos from today's Commission meeting are available via e-mail, including the photos below. Please contact Paul Leakan at [Info@pinelands.nj.gov](mailto:Info@pinelands.nj.gov).



**Above:** Nick Asselta was sworn in during this morning's Pinelands Commission meeting.

Photo/Paul Leakan

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