

**Readington Township  
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2023**

**OPEN MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson at 7:06 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

**Members in Attendance**

Neil Hendrickson - Chair  
Jeff Charney  
Steve Foster  
Jonathan Heller  
Susan Masinda  
Mario Orlandi  
Cassandra Ward

**Members Absent**

Robert Becker  
Jerry Cook

**Minutes**

It was moved and seconded, to approve the minutes for July 11, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

**Guest Speaker**

None

**LOI/Freshwater Wetlands**

None

**AOC (Areas of Concern)**

None

**Correspondence**

1. 2023-07-07 - Former Walmart #5069 - June Potable Well Deliverable: **Noted**
2. Well Sampling Request - 11 Park Lane - **Noted**

**New Business**

**1. Inland Flood Protection Webinar:**

Some of the members watched this webinar. The webinar informed that an Inland Flood Protection rule was adopted, effective July 17, 2023. One of the key points was that historic flood levels will be raised by two feet to reflect more realistic levels. Ms. Masinda stated that this commission should advise the Township Committee and the Planning Board to update our ordinances to reflect these new rules. Mr. Foster suggested that once the Township is in compliance with the Inland Flood Protection rules, education be offered to the residents so they can be informed.

## **2. Well/Water Testing for 2023:**

Mr. Orlandi stated that the dates for October have been decided on; they will be October 14, 17, 18 and 24. Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) has implemented new requirements for volunteers that will be collecting samples and speaking with the residents. They will be having a training session for all volunteers on October 2, 2023, at their Darts Mill location. All previous volunteers will be contacted about this training. They will be trying to record this session so that any volunteers unable to make the training date will be able to watch the recording.

Members discussed various aspects of this annual testing including how to increase the number of residents participating and testing for forever chemicals. Due to the locations of members' residences, it was suggested that the members complete the test for PFAs offered by RHA to get a picture of the different areas of Readington Township and how the water may be affected by PFAs. The members that offered to have this testing done are as follows: Chair Hendrickson, Mr. Orlandi, Ms. Masinda, Mr. Foster, Mr. Charney and Mr. Heller. Mr. Orlandi will work with RHA in getting the test kits so these members can complete this testing. The members discussed a plan to address potential situations that may arise based on these test results and how to present it to the residents for awareness purposes.

## **Other Business:**

### **1. Rockaway Creek Testing for E. coli Update:**

Ms. Masinda provided a copy of the testing results received from Montclair State University. This testing is being paid for by a grant from NJ American Water. Ms. Masinda went over the testing results, which showed a positive result for human markers. Next, based on the recommendation from Montclair State University, testing will be done for bovine, geese, and deer markers. Ms. Masinda discussed the locations and timeline for all the testing she has performed. Members discussed how to identify the source of the human contribution and the various areas that could be the source. Members expressed frustration with the County Health department, the state DEP and the EPA with their lack of motivation to do the necessary investigation to identify the source. Ms. Masinda stated that the Director of Water Quality at the DEP is aware of the study. Once the final report is generated, Ms. Masinda will forward the report to the director and continue to follow up until action is taken. Members discussed the impact this contamination may have on Cushetunk Lake. All members expressed appreciation for all the Ms. Masinda's efforts in working on this issue.

### **2. Purchase items with the EC Logo**

Chair Hendrickson presented his choices for hats and shirts and stated he continues to work with Darrow's on the pricing options available for different scenarios of colors of the hats, shirts and logo. He will provide an update once the pricing options have been received.

### **3. Tree Ordinance Update**

Chair Hendrickson stated he met with Christina Schwartz, Land Use Director and Ron Christy, DPW Director to revise the current ordinance. The revision is complete, and that the Nuisance ordinance was also updated to address invasive species. Chair Hendrickson described some of the changes that went into the revisions. Mr. Charney stated that he would like to know when it will go into effect so that the residents could be educated on the ordinance.

**4. Recycling Contract Update**

It was reported that the deadline for the bids was extended because some of the notes needed to be amended. Three (3) contractors accepted the paperwork; however, no bids have been received yet. Mr. Foster asked if there were requirements in the bid for reporting what is recycled. It was noted that some companies state that the amount of items recycled is proprietary information. Members discussed how various factors come into play when determining what can be recycled.

**Site Plan Review and Comment**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

It was the consensus of the commission members to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Radziewicz  
Advisory Boards Secretary