

**Readington Township
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson at 7:00 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
Susan Masinda
Mario Orlandi
Cassandra Ward
Robert Becker
Jerry Cook

Members Absent

Jonathan Heller

Guest Speaker

Chris Sotiro – AmeriCorps Ambassador with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.
His term began in September and ends July 2024.

Minutes

Deferred until the next meeting.

LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

None.

AOC (Areas of Concern)

Electromagnetic Radiation – moved to public comment.

Correspondence

- 1. Application Review Process from planning and zoning:**
Noted, but not discussed.

New Business

- 1. NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference:**
The conference was well attended. Neil is the new president of the NJ Shade Tree Federation. There will be a webinar series on tree ordinances. A member suggested that Neil looks into available funding from the DEP for this series.
- 2. Association of NJ Environmental Commission (ANJEC) Central Jersey Network:**
Susan Masinda summarized the meeting and provided examples of projects, activities, and ordinances executed by other municipalities. Regarding the warehouse model ordinance, the planning board is removing the word warehouse from the code book to eliminate any

possible interpretation that warehouses are permitted in Readington. In regard to Princeton's food scrap drop off site, members gave a reminder this has been looked into and Readington is located out of the service area range. Also discussed were tree ordinance fines going directly to the environmental commission in Sommerville, Highlands utilizing their ERI map in the site plan review process, the banning of gas-powered leaf blowers in a municipality, and idling of cars.

3. DPW Update and Reusable Bag Donation:

Ron Christy is extending the used oil collection to residents at no cost. During the Three Bridges stream cleanup, 30 cans of oil were found. There also has been some oil found in the sewage treatment plant and the collection of used oil will hopefully reduce the amount found. There will also be a reusable bag collection in 2024. Logistics of planning and packing to follow. A Discussion on used tire disposal also occurred. The DPW salt barn is currently filled to capacity.

4. New Developments and Public Transportation Issues:

There is no public transportation at the new developments.

5. NJ Salt Watch: Monitoring of Salt in Streams:

Neil will request that Ron Christy notifies him when the roads are brined or salted so volunteers can monitor the salt in the streams. Chris Sotiro said he would be able to get more volunteers as well. This could cover sites that do not have volunteers dedicated yet or create additional site locations that can be monitored.

Other Business:

1. Deer Management Data:

Despite more properties added to the list, the numbers are the same as last year. We are now moving into firearm season which typically increases numbers.

2. Silver Bit:

Susan stated the Silver Bit project is completed. She also stated that the property abutting Silver Bit has an illegal hunter with tree stands and a feeder on the property. She notified a Township Committee member of the situation.

3. NJLM Update:

Neil spoke to Sustainable NJ at the NJLM.

4. Rockaway Creek Summary:

Susan Masinda worked with Montclair State to study Rockaway Creek. She reported that human E. Coli was found in the creek. E Coli was also found in the Windy Reservation Nature Preserve. The safe level of E. Coli in water for recreational activities such as swimming or fishing is between 200-300. There is no safe level for human E. Coli that she could find. The results showed a number of 80 in the creek.

5. NJDEP News Release: Clean Communities Grant for Local Litter Removal Programs:

There is money we can fight for. Funding is based on the tonnage of waste produced by the municipality. Clothing donation bins can be included in the tonnage count. Ron Christy will look into this. After the stream cleanup, a bag count was provided to Ron to include the amount of waste generated. A concern was brought up regarding tracking the amount of waste generated from Readington and accounting for the tonnage with multiple refuse haulers now being used. A discussion on recycling took place regarding who does and does not recycle all types of plastics, requirements of plastic recycling including food containers being properly cleaned, and the recycling ending up in a landfill if disposed of incorrectly. The Readington Board of Health code requiring the licensing of all garbage haulers was discussed. The fee of \$100 could help cover the cost to maintain roads after increased wear and tear from multiple trucks traveling through the town.

Site Plan Review and Comment

None

Public Comment

Andrew Roth spoke on Electromagnetic Radiation which is considered an environmental pollutant. He urged members to view the issue of electromagnetic radiation as a concern and local manifestations. He provided handouts to the members. In October of 2023, Stanford, CT a federal 5G infrastructure plan. A Millburn, NJ resident spoke at a meeting on this topic and was told it is not regulated on a local level it is the FCC that approves regulations. Locally, townships can provide meters to monitor electromagnetic radiation using a surveillance van with a probe. Mr. Roth also stated the electromagnetic radiation is not limited to 5G but also high-speed Wi-Fi. Mr. Roth requests the committee to consider environmental pollutants and look into electromagnetic radiation.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:59 p.m., seconded, and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Monaghan
Advisory Boards Secretary