

**Readington Township
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson at 7:05 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
Robert Becker
Jeff Charney
Jerry Cook
Steve Foster
Susan Masinda
Mario Orlandi
Cassandra Ward

Members Absent

Jonathan Heller

Minutes

Mr. Becker moved and Ms. Masinda seconded, to approve the minutes for May 2, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker

None

LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

1. JCP&L Application for GP 21 – various locations – **It was mentioned that at the Township Committee meeting the previous night there was concern mentioned about trees having to be removed in order to install taller poles in order to upgrade the lines. Additionally, it was stated that PSE&G is planning to install a new gas line on Pulaski.**

2. NJDEP LOI - B. 38 Lots 27 and 28 - Minalex Corp - **This correspondence addresses a proposed expansion.**

AOC (Areas of Concern)

1. RAO - Block 63 Lot 50 - 158 Stanton Road - **Remediation has been completed.**
2. RAO - Block 39 Lot 52 – County Line Road - **Noted**

Correspondence

1. NJDEP applications for Block 36, Lots 5, 5.02, 5.04 – **Members discussed the project planned for this site and the potential environmental issues with the site.**

2. PSEG - Culvert Extension - B. 97 Lot 5 - 648 Old York Rd - **Noted**

New Business

1. Winner Notification Letter - Rockaway Creek E. Coli Source

The NJAW Environmental Grant Program Application for the “Rockaway Creek E. Coli Source” was awarded to Readington Township. This is a \$10,000 grant. Ms. Masinda briefly discussed how the grant monies will be utilized and the testing that needs to be performed.

2. FYI -Grant awarded to Raritan Township: Residential Food Waste Recycling Drop-off program

Mr. Becker stated that Lambertville was awarded a similar grant years ago, however had to abandon the program as their DPW staffing was unable to keep up with it. This will act as a pilot plan as to how this type of program can be run. Additionally, it was stated that the Hunterdon County solid waste advisory committee has two (2) small projects in the works – evaluation of food waste recycling practices and plastic recycling (can the County house the TREC plastic recycling program). An off-topic conversation between the members consisted of discussing the future of Petticoat Lane.

3. FYI - Tree Planting Grant Opportunity for Schools

This could be an opportunity for the EC to be able to work closely with the schools in the event the schools receive the grant.

Other Business:

1. MS4 Requirements Update

No updates at this time. It was reported in the May meeting that Mr. Becker would be giving a presentation to the Planning Board on this subject, however it was decided that the Township Engineer will make that presentation. Mr. Foster added that Jersey Water and ANJEC will be having presentations on this subject. Chair Hendrickson informed that the NJ Shade Tree Commission will be having an MS4 session at their annual conference later this year. Members discussed the necessity of having other township department representatives attend presentations on this topic.

2. Tree Ordinance Update

Updates to the ordinance have been made, however, in light of the MS4 requirements changes, portions of the updated ordinance may need to be reworked.

3. Recycling – Dual Stream Fact Sheet

Members discussed current recycling (single stream) and the costs of options available/desired for future recycling contracts. It was asked how much of the recycling actually gets recycled versus being taken to the landfill. Mr. Becker described the process and there is currently no way to know how much is being recycled. Members discussed the recycling bid process.

4. ERI Update

A draft version of the updated sections were provided to the members. Chair Hendrickson spoke with the deer management representatives and information related to the deer management program will be added. Mr. Becker complimented the draft product provided and briefly discussed feedback he will be providing, which includes adding things from the Sustainable Asset Map. Members discussed how the ERI will be maintained – in house versus third party vendor.

5. Contaminated Sites Update

Mr. Becker stated that ANJEC believes that contaminated sites are an issue and they would like to see these sites documented. He further reported that there has not been a response from the DEP regarding the letter sent to the DEP from the Mayor regarding contaminated sites in Readington.

Site Plan Review and Comment

JW Congregation Support, Inc.

Appl# ZB22-016, Block 15 Lot 23 – 3480 Route 22

Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan with Conditional Use and Variances -Kingdom Hall

The members noted that there is a large amount of mature bamboo on the property and questioned how this will be addressed. Ms. Masinda stated that this property borders a wildlife management area to the rear and was concerned about the trees on the border. Other concerns noted include, but are not limited to: soil limitations, wetlands, detention basin to the north, a habitat of a species of a special concern, evidence of dumping, historic recognition of an unregulated underground oil tank. A memo from the EC to the Board of Adjustment will be provided to request the following:

- Provide a plan on how the bamboo will be controlled to prevent impact to neighboring properties.
- Ensure the applicant follows the recommendations provided by the GZA.
- Allow the Environmental Commission to provide additional input as more information is provided in the application process.

Public Comment

Mr. Roth, a member of the public, discussed his concern with increased electromagnetic activity, due to increased usage of cell phones, wi-fis, etc., on the environment. Mr. Roth has been researching how much is harmful to our health and where does the jurisdiction to address these concerns lie? He handed out a fact sheet to EC members and briefly discussed several points. Mr. Roth was asked what his driving concern is and what is asking from the EC and Mr. Roth replied that they can increase their knowledge on the subject as well as educate the community. It was suggested that Mr. Roth reach out to the County and State elected representatives and possibly Rutgers University since he has previously approached the Township Committee and the EC in the past about this subject.

Ms. Masinda reported that Montclair State is offering free testing for algae bloom; deadline is June 9, 2023. The EC will not pursue this for the current year.

Adjournment

It was the consensus of the commission members to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Radziewicz
Advisory Boards Secretary