

**Readington Township
Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024**

OPEN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker 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:

Robert Becker - Chair
 Jeff Charney
 Steve Foster
 Jason Giroud
 Jonathan Heller* arrived after TC meeting concluded
 Neil Hendrickson
 Susan Masinda
 Stephanie Panico
 Cassandra Ward

Attendance	X = Present - - - = Absent											
	Member	2/6	3/5	4/2	5/7	6/4	7/2	8/6	9/	10/1	11/	12/3
Becker	X											
Charney	X											
Foster	X											
Giroud	X											
Heller	X											
Hendrickson	X											
Masinda	X											
Panico	X											
Ward	X											

In Attendance:

Dennis Fimbel
 Cathleen Doherty

Cathleen Doherty, Readington resident, introduced herself, gave a brief professional background, and noted that she attends meetings and has been volunteering for about a year.

Approval of Minutes:

10/03/2023 Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded, and carried by all.
 10/30/2023 Special Meeting Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded, and carried by all.
 12/05/2023 Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded, and carried by all.

Approval of Meeting Dates:

The below dates for meeting were reviewed.
 Motion was made to approve the meeting dates, with the correction of June 3 to June 4. The approved dates are as follows.

January 2nd	7:00pm
February 6th	7:00pm
March 5th	7:00pm
April 2nd	7:00pm
May 7th	7:00pm
June 4th	7:00pm
July 2nd	7:00pm
August 6th	7:00pm
September 10th	7:00pm
October 1st	7:00pm
November 12th	7:00pm
December 3rd	7:00pm

Chair Report:

Mr. Becker Began the meeting by thanking Neil Hendrickson for his leadership as Chair over the last few years. His collaboration with other municipalities, the development of the logo, communication with the schools, and the initiation and completion of the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) were valuable contributions.

Annual Report: The chair reviewed the 2023 Annual Report Draft and asked the members to send any comments to the secretary. The purpose of the EC as defined in the Township Code was reviewed. The Township Committee is currently reviewing budgets. A request for funds was submitted for office supplies and printing, memberships and dues, conferences and trainings, software application hosting, contracted services, legal advertisements, and grant funded project. Jason Giroud indicated that funds from the Deer Management Program could be made available for EC support. The Wildlife Subcommittee is a subcommittee of EC. Steve Foster asked about the ANJEC membership dues which have already been submitted. In addition, members were reminded to sign up for the ANJEC mailings.

LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:

None.

AOC (Areas of Concern):

Correspondence:

1. PSE&G Letter Received 1/8/2024:

Notice of right a way clearing according to DEP standards. Jason provided examples and the rules and regulations of the application of herbicides. If anyone has a question or concern, members are asked to review and send comments to the secretary to compile, and the chair will write a letter to PSE&G expressing any concerns.

New Business:

1. Community Energy Plan:

The chair provided information on a grant to develop a Readington energy plan. The goal would bring together concerns regarding EV's, charging stations, solar deployment, and energy conservation measures. The grant was on the 2/5/2024 TC agenda.

Other Business:

1. Silver Bit and Spur:

Susan Masinda reviewed photographs which showed the area reseeded to reduce the runoff to Holland Brook.

2. Rockaway Creek Summary:

Susan Masinda reported on the Rockaway Creek study. Her findings and results were submitted to the NJDEP.

3. Immediate Environmental Concern (IEC) Cases:

The chair reviewed the letter sent by the DEP in response to concerns expressed by the TC in 2023 which had been sent to members for review. Concerns were expressed about contamination sources not being found, mitigation measures taken, and the responsibility for follow-up to remedial action taken. Members were asked to send comments to the secretary. The chair will prepare a response for review at the March meeting.

4. Recycle Update:

The chair reviewed both the State and Township requirements for reporting collected waste by hauling organizations. Members discussed local ordinances and reporting procedures. Members discussed preparing a memo to the Township Committee that all haulers be reminded that annual reporting to the Township is required for the Clean Communities Grant. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by all, to send such a memo. The chair will prepare a statement at the March meeting.

5. Readington Township Environmental Resource Inventory:

The Chair thank Neil Hendrickson for his efforts related to the ERI. A link to the document was provided to the members. All members were asked to review and make final comments for the next meeting.

6. Community Solar Energy Program (CSEP):

No update.

Site Plan Review and Comment:

None

Public Comment:

The Township continues to treat selected ash trees, but untreated trees will die. Beach trees are also expected to die as no treatment methods are available.

Susan Masinda expressed concern about the Solberg Airport Master Plan and concern the township community is not represented on the DOT's Citizen Activity Committee. Members discussed aspects of the environmental impact on air quality, noise, and disturbance of natural habitats. Cathleen Doherty asked if there is a precedent for the environmental impacts within a predominately well and septic town. Susan proposed a statement be sent by the EC to the TC regarding these concerns. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by all, to send such a memo. It was also agreed that individual grass roots action such as letters to elected official be done.

Susan reported illegal hunting in the Holland Brook area. Jason said that in cases of illegal activity or public safety concerns, the police should be notified. Residents can also contact 1-877-WARNDEP with concerns for a conservation officer to do an investigation. General questions or confirmation of approved hunting areas can be answered by Jason.

Dennis Kimble commented on the air quality from exhaust fumes that linger in yards and come through the house. He also commented that low flying aircrafts and turbo engines are nuisances in the neighborhood.

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