

**Readington Township Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2025**

OPEN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker at 7:07 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

A) Roll Call

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

B) Approval of Minutes:

The 12/3/2024 minutes were approved with one change. Jonathan Heller made a motion to approve the minutes as written with the correction, seconded by Steve Foster, and carried by all. Both Renee Rao and Stephanie Panico abstained from voting as they were not present for that meeting.

C) LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:

Discussed a Letter of Interpretation on Tannery Row. No concerns.

D) AOC (Areas of Concern):

1. Contaminated Sites Update:

- a. The Chairman reviewed the status of the Executive Dry Cleaners site PI-235471. Originally identified in May, 2011, house to house testing for PCE's has only recently begun. Only two houses tested above limit and POET system installed. Work has expanded to test on Old Route 28. Three properties are suspect.
- b. The latest input from DEP on contaminated sites in general was discussed. There is evidence that the DEP has not contacted these homes in years. Contacting the owners was discussed and a draft questionnaire was constructed to assess current status. Bringing awareness to residents is a key concern of the Environmental Commission. Ways to raise resident awareness were discussed. Mr. Becker and Mr. Heller will develop a more clear-cut strategy recommendation for the next meeting.

E) Correspondence:

F) Old Business:

MLUL Hazard Impact Score and Review: The Chairman reviewed the objective and current status. A meeting is planned with fire, OEM, police and others to review the infrastructure list and assess vulnerability to climate change.

Project Updates: Rockaway Creek, Airport, Deer Management, Sustainable Action Team, Land Stewardship: The airport master plan public meetings were discussed as well as intricacies of the possible expansion and its impact on our environment.

Deer Management: Our deer harvest increased by 33% over last year. We have 410 deer so far with two weeks to go in the season. 64 deer donations were made, and that has doubled from last year. All of the participating properties have had successful harvests. Private residents have reached out with positive feedback and inquiries into other ways to expand the program. We had major progress on this front over the last year or so.

Sustainable Action Team: 2025 is our certification year. The first round to submit actions narratives is February 23. The last submission is due in July.

Rockaway Creek E-coli: Nothing new to report, there should be an update in the spring.

Land stewardship: A group being headed by the Open Space Board, Land Stewardship Committee, is discussing a five year program with Raritan Community College to use their resources for land stewardship activities. Objective is to have a more focused issues and improve prioritization. Better planning, grants for tree planting, and leadership initiatives were discussed. The EC Chairman participates.

G) New Business:

1. Areas of engagement and assignments.

Chair Becker has come up a list for the board and community to focus on; trees, water, meadows, energy, communication, education, recycling, Sustainable Jersey, GIS, air, noise, and animals. A point person for each area will be the eyes/ears into the world and transfer any information gathered to the committee/community. All present members signed up to represent one or more of the focus areas. There will be a final review at the March meeting.

2. Ms. Rao stated that Raritan Headwaters would like to make a presentation on well water testing and will coordinate the effort.

3. Mr. Foster reported on two meetings in January; the 14th and 28th that were cohosted by ANJEC. Twenty-five communities participated in the conversation. Two points that came out of those discussions were of interest. First, a need for a green development checklist for contractors to complete as they put in applications for permits. Second, how to internalize and have commitment to sustainable actions accepted by residents and the general public.

4. Mr. Foster expressed concern regarding the refuse disposal bins at Township Parks. Pictures were provided of neat, well labeled containers. This matter will be reviewed with DP and whether "Clean Community" grant funds could be used.

H) Site Plan Review and Comment:

None.

I) Public/Members Comment:

Policy director, Bill Kibler, has left Raritan Headwaters Association. He is now Executive Director at The Great Swamp Watershed Association. For those members who have worked with Bill over the years we appreciate his contribution and wish him great success in his new adventure.

J) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jason Giroud and, seconded by Renee Rao at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Russo
Advisory Board Secretary