

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2023

PRESENT:

MEMBER	JAN 4	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 5	MAY 3	JUN 7	AUG 2	SEP 6	OCT 4	NOV 1
Mr. Huelsebusch, Chair	X									
Ms. Allen, Vice Chair	X									
Mr. Bola	X									
Dr. Hendrickson	X									
Mr. John	X									
Dr. Kelly										
Mr. Mueller	X									
Mr. Orlandi										
Ms. Owen	X									
Mr. Dunn, 1 st Alternate	X									
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X									

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Clay Mason

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Website:** Julia Allen stated that the Open Space Walk scheduled for January 15th was posted on the Township website.

- 2) **Open Space Walks:** Julia Allen stated that the January walk will be held at Windy Acres Preserve in Clinton Township. John Klotz stated that the February 19th walk will be held at Cole Rd. East, March 20th walk will be at Whitehouse Greenway, April 16th walk will be on Round Mountain meeting at Dobozyński.

- 3) **Event Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that recognition for the Township receiving Sustainable Jersey Gold and Silver level awards will be planned for in the near future.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Neil Hendrickson made a motion to approve the November minutes, seconded by Adam Mueller, all approved.

MEETING DATES: Meeting dates for 2023 are as follows:

January 4, 2023
February 1, 2023
March 1, 2023
April 5, 2023
May 3, 2023
June 7, 2023

July NO MEETING
August 2, 2023
September 6, 2023
October 4, 2023
November 1, 2023
December NO MEETING

Anne Owen made a motion to approve the meeting dates, seconded by Chris John, all approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that he is talking with Administrator Rich Sheola to conduct an auction on the Saums property in April or May. Julia Allen stated that Green Acres will be holding informational sessions on January 11, February 1 and 22.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** nothing to report
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:**
 - a. **Tree Tubelings:** Neil Hendrickson stated that over 1,500 tubelings have been ordered and this year's tubelings will include many flowering dogwoods. This year's give-away will be held on Sat., April 22.
- 4) **WaterWatch Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that he and Mario Orlandi met recently with Katie (Asst. Commissioner of Watersheds) from NJDEP and they toured the South Branch, Rockefeller's Mills, Dart's Mills, Holland Brook, rain gardens at Hillcrest, tree plantings on Pine Bank.
- 5) **Township Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch spoke about the recent acquisition of Dart's Mills property and future opportunities to use the house and property. Adam Mueller gave an update on the recent Public Works purchase of a new mower.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen reported that she attended the Dec. 20th County Commissioners meeting and that Ryan Kurtz attained Eagle Scout for making a Floating Bridge and signage on Lachenmayr trail in Readington. Anne gave an update on status of several trails and the board discussed which trails and/or projects need to be prioritized for work in the Spring. Anne stated that the next trails sub-committee meeting will be held on Jan. 24.
- 2) **Stewardship:** Chair Huelsebusch distributed a proposal from Dr. Kelly on stewardship projects for the upcoming year. The proposal includes hiring a Senior Staff person to

work on grants, stewardship, etc. Funding for this position would be partially paid for by hunting fees. Chair Huelsebusch stated that he will present this preliminary draft proposal at the next Township Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Dart's Mills:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that he is planning a site visit/event on April 8 at Dart's Mills house/property. Chair Huelsebusch stated that this is in the preliminary planning stage and will have more information at a future meeting.
- 2) **Updating/Maintaining Kiosks:** John Klotz asked if the board can coordinate with Public Works to update various kiosks that are in need of repair and/or replacement. John stated that he will create a list of kiosks that need updating and Adam Mueller stated that he will speak with Public Works Director, Ron Christy.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: no comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Chair Huelsebusch stated that Clay Mason will be serving on the Ag Advisory Committee for 2023. Discussion on stream/creek and mowing issue on property/fields along Pleasant Run Greenway. Adam Mueller stated that he will speak with Public Works Director, Ron Christy. Adam stated that 211 deer have been hunted so far for the 2022/23 hunting season.

ADJOURN: Emanuel Bola made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Adam Mueller, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter