

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 5, 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		X	X						
Ms. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Bola	X	X	X	X						
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X		X						
Mr. John	X	X	X	X						
Dr. Kelly										
Mr. Mueller	X	X		X						
Mr. Orlandi		X								
Ms. Owen	X		X	X						
Mr. Dunn, 1 st Alternate	X	X		X						
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X	X	X						

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lisa McDonald, Amie Grillo, Beth Negin, Angela Grillo, Joanna McDonald, Annie Kananni (sp?), Marianne Nathan (sp?)

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Website:** John Klotz stated that the April 16th open space hike has been posted to the Township website. Chair Huelsebusch discussed the new Township Facebook page.
- 2) **Event Updates / Dart's Mill:** Chair Huelsebusch updated the board on the Dart's Mill building and stated that Raritan Headwaters is planning on occupying the space on July 1.
- 3) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the April 16th walk was posted on the website and will be held on Round Mountain. John also stated that the May 21st walk will be held at the county Woodfern Trail.
- 4) **Trails:** deferred until April.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chris John made a motion to approve the March minutes, seconded by John Klotz, all approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

SCOUT PROJECT:

Kestrel Nesting Boxes: Cadette Girl Scouts Angela Grillo, Joanna McDonald, Annie Kananni (sp?) and Marianne Nathan (sp?) from Troop 80535 presented their Silver Award project for Kestrel Nesting Boxes. The project would include 5 to 10 nesting boxes to be mounted 8 to 10 ft. from the ground and installed on Township open space (locations to be determined). The project will also include education on Kestrels and ways to help increase their population. Adam Mueller made a motion to approve this Silver Award project, seconded by Anne Owen, all approved.

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Julia Allen discussed status of Lightfield Farms application with SADC.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the Deer Path parcel contract closed recently.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** Neil Hendrickson stated that Jason Giroud gave a summary on this season's deer programs. Neil stated that he is working with Readington schools on a Green School / outdoor classroom project. Neil updated the status on the upcoming annual Tree Seedling Give-Away to be held on Sat., April 22.
- 4) **WaterWatch Updates:** deferred until April.
- 5) **Township Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the Township has a contract with Max Spann Realty to auction the Saum's property on Wed., May 10.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen and John Klotz discussed trails that Public Works could mow with the new brush hog machine. Discussion on updating the Whitehouse Greenway map to be renamed Lt. Dale Haver Whitehouse Greenway. The next trail meeting will be held on Tues., April 25.
- 2) **Stewardship:** deferred until April.
- 3) **Volunteer Sessions:** Chris John stated that the volunteer sessions will be scheduled after the Tree Seedling Give-away.

NEW BUSINESS: Adam Mueller stated that the hunting programs produced 295 deer harvested this season which is a 15% increase over last year. In addition, 95 harvested deer were donated to Hunter's Helping the Hungry program. Chris John stated that Basking Ridge has asked for renewed participation in the school tree planting program. Emanuel Bola stated that Readington Recreation has asked for help with tree planting at Summer Road park. Emanuel

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also stated that Rec is looking for groups to set up a table and participate in the Memorial Day event at Pickell Park and the annual Summer Spectacular event held in June. Ryan Dunn spoke about updates for the Open Space page on the Township website and Facebook page.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: no comments

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: no comments

ADJOURN: John Klotz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris John, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter