

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 6, 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	X	X		X		
Ms. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mr. Bola	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Mr. John	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Dr. Kelly					X			X		
Mr. Mueller	X	X		X		X	X	X		
Mr. Orlandi		X			X	X		X		
Ms. Owen	X		X	X	X		X			
Mr. Dunn, 1 st Alternate	X	X		X	X			X		
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Brian Skowronek

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) **Communication:** Chair Huelsebusch gave an update and shared items recently posted on the Township Facebook page.
- 2) **Event Updates:** Nothing to report.
- 3) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the next open space walk will be held on September 17 at Holland Brook Headwaters. John stated that residents can now sign up for the walk online by clicking the link on the flyer posted on the Township website. John stated that this new sign-up procedure will be a better way to communicate with participants. John stated that October's walk will be held on Cushetunk Mountain.
- 4) **Volunteer Sessions:** Nothing to report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Adam Mueller made a motion to approve the June and August minutes, seconded by John Klotz, all approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chair Huelsebusch presented a letter of support from Readington Township to the County Commissioners in reference to a grant application.

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that the Township is still waiting to close on the Bartleson Joy Farm and Pascale Farm. Ryan Dunn stated that Ad Advisory is working on a target list of farms with potential preservation in the future.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the next monthly County meeting will be held on September 25.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** Nothing to report.
- 4) **WaterWatch Updates:** Mario Orlandi spoke about the upcoming Well Water Testing Program in October that is held in conjunction with Raritan Headwaters. Mario stated that in 2022 the program saw a significant drop in residents' participation. Mario stated that there will be more effort this year to reach out to residents.
- 5) **Township Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch spoke about potential preservation opportunities currently being negotiated and working cooperatively with Hunterdon Land Trust on these projects.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** John Klotz stated that maps and brochures have been inserted at the new kiosks and temporary banners have been installed on the kiosks, as well. Discussion on various methods of maintaining and clearing the trails. Discussion on recruiting volunteers to help with trail maintenance.
- 2) **Stewardship:** Dr. Kelly stated that drone surveys have been completed and the data collected will be available in the next six (6) weeks. The data will be used for analysis on meadow management, streams, etc. Dr. Kelly also spoke on mushroom harvest and composting, recent rare bird sightings in the Township meadows (Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Grasshopper Sparrows), and grassland mowing. Adam Mueller asked for an update on prescribed burns (Cole Rd., Round Mountain, and Holland Brook Headwaters). Dr. Kelly stated that the application has been submitted and he will follow-up with the State to check the status. Dr. Kelly asked about the mowing schedule done by Eric Doyle. Ryan Dunn stated that he will contact Eric to confirm timeline for mowing.
- 3) **Signage:** John Klotz spoke about a pile of debris near one of the trailhead entrances that needs to be cleared. John stated that in the past month, more debris has been left, therefore, a "No Dumping" sign needs to be installed and the debris needs to be cleared. Adam Mueller stated that he would address this issue with Public Works.

- 4) **Lighting / Summer Rd Park:** Chair Huelsebusch spoke about residents' recent concerns about potential lighting for Summer Rd. Park and asked the Board for their input. The board generally felt that lighting should not be installed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: No comments

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Adam Mueller stated that hunting season starts on September 9th and information will be posted on the Township website and Facebook page.

ADJOURN: Adam Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mario Orlandi, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter