

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Peter Rogers, Frank Lesnik, Brian Skowronek

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) **Communication:** Chair Huelsebusch spoke about the various postings to Facebook.
- 2) **Event Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch spoke about the recent water rescue training held in conjunction with Whitehouse Rescue, Readington Police and Raritan Headwaters.
- 3) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the next open space walk will be held on November 19th on Cold Road Greenway and December 17th on Round Mountain. The Annual 1st Day Hike will be held on January 1st on Cushetunk Mountain.
- 4) **Volunteer Sessions:** Discussion on possible sessions for 2024. Nothing scheduled as yet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Neil Hendrickson made a motion to approve the September 6th minutes, seconded by Emanuel Bola, all approved. John Klotz made a motion to approve the

October 4th minutes, seconded by Neil Hendrickson, all approved (Chair Huelsebusch and Adam Mueller abstained).

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Vice Chair Allen stated that the Township is still waiting to close on two (2) farms with SADC.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the next meeting will be held the end of November.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** Neil Hendrickson stated that 1,500 seedlings have been reserved for the annual seedling give-away in April. Adam Mueller made a motion to provide funding from the Open Space Trust Fund for the 2024 seedling give-away, seconded by Vice Chair Allen, all approved. Neil updated the board on the status of the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) and discussed the layout of the new document (story map) and how unique and user friendly it is.
- 4) **WaterWatch Update:** Mario Orlandi stated that the Annual Water Testing program was successful with higher resident participation from last year (150 kits sold in 2022, approx. 200 kits sold in 2023).
- 5) **Township Updates:** Nothing to report.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen stated that the next Trails meeting will be held on December 20th. Anne updated the board on the condition of the trails and stated that, to date, 150 volunteer hours have been dedicated towards open space this year and 80 volunteer hours dedicated to Readington Trails. John Klotz stated that there are a few trails that need updating and suggested this could be future Eagle projects.
- 2) **Stewardship:** nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Township resident, Peter Rogers, presented his idea and plan for creating a trail on open space and connecting it with a footbridge along the Rockaway Creek located in the northwest corner of the Township near Tewksbury Township. Peter also stated that there are No Trespassing signs along the trail. John Klotz stated that there is already a trail established at that location, however, it has not been mowed or updated in the past few years. Peter will draft a design for a footbridge and present it at the next Trails meeting on December 20th.

Open Space Advisory Board

Page 3 of 3

November 1, 2023

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Resident, Frank Lesnik, stated that he is interested in conducting and/or helping with drone footage for the trails, such as Cushetunk Trail, in the future.

ADJOURN: Neil Hendrickson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Adam Mueller, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter