

**Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**February 7, 2024**

**PRESENT:**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>JAN 3</b>	<b>FEB 7</b>	<b>MAR 13</b>	<b>APR 3</b>	<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>JUN 12</b>	<b>AUG 7</b>	<b>SEP 4</b>	<b>OCT 2</b>	<b>NOV 6</b>
Juergen Huelsebusch, Chair	X	X								
Emanuel Bola, Vice Chair	X	X								
Julia Allen	X	X								
Thomas Davitt	X	X								
Neil Hendrickson	X									
Christopher John	X	X								
Adam Mueller										
Mario Orlandi	X	X								
Anne Owen	X	X								
Ryan Dunn, 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate	X	X								
John Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X								

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Jay Kelly, Frank Leshik, Jerry Cook, Brian Skowronek, Dennis Fimbel, Carolyn Fimbel, Robert Becker

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised. All board members introduced themselves for the benefit of new members of the board and the public.

**COMMUNITY:**

- 1) **Communication:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the February Open Space Walk will be posted on the Township website tomorrow (2/8).
- 2) **Event Updates:** nothing to report.
- 3) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the next open space walk will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> on Lazy Brook Greenway. The March 17<sup>th</sup> walk will be held on Round Mountain.

- 4) **Volunteer Sessions:** Chris John stated that volunteer sessions will be held on March 16, March 23, April 27, May 4. Discussion on targeted areas for upcoming work sessions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Emanuel Bola made a motion to approve the January 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes, seconded by (?), motion approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORTS:**

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that two closings will be held in the near future and a funding application for \$2 million was recently submitted to Green Acres. Chair Huelsebusch stated that the calculation on funding has been updated which will reflect a larger incentive to the landowner.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that he attended the January meeting and there is nothing to report at this time.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** Robert Becker stated that there are plans to conduct a five-acre tree planting in the Spring.
- 4) **WaterWatch Update:** Mario Orlandi stated that in the past, the annual Stream Clean-up has been in collaboration with Raritan Headwaters. WaterWatch is working on ways to expand the program to include more of the surrounding community. Mario stated that this year's clean-up will be promoted as a community event. Tentative event date is April 14, however, the date still needs to be finalized.
- 5) **Township Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that there is a contract on the James property and negotiations are moving forward on the Telleri property.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen stated that the next trails meeting will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Anne stated that John Klotz wrote a very detailed and efficient trails assessment report. John Klotz asked the Board to review the report and asked for feedback.
- 2) **Stewardship:** Dr. Kelly presented the latest stewardship project which entails using drones with multi-spectral sensors to identify various plant species on open space parcels. Dr. Kelly stated that approx. 1,000 acres were included in the data collection. Dr. Kelly presented a slide presentation with an overview of the data collected from the ten (10) study areas.

**NEW BUSINESS:** nothing to report.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:** Julia Allen spoke about the tree seedling plantings and the quality of tubes/surrounds that are used to protect them.

**ADJOURN:** Anne Owen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emanuel Bola, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg A. Slutter