

**Readington Township
Waterwatch Advisory Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Orlandi at 7:08 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

Members in Attendance

Mario Orlandi – Chair
Steve Foster
Lauren Huelsebusch
Marlene Orlandi
Rene Rao

Absent

Richard Giessler
Jonathan Heller
David Owen
Agostino Pietrangelo

Minutes

It was moved and seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for May 16, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker:

Jake Spooner, resident and arborist, presented a proposal he put together to manufacture benches for Open Space and trail locations around Readington Township. Committee members complimented Mr. Spooner on the designs included in the proposal and discussed specifics of the proposal with respect to pricing. A member indicated that there may be existing grant money that could apply to this project as well as other grant opportunities that could be applied for to aid in the financing of the project. It was questioned whether students, scout organizations and/or residents and families could volunteer to help with the project to include the community. Members provided feedback and suggestions on ways to improve the proposal. Mr. Spooner stated the proposal is somewhat incomplete due to the vague parameters given and will revise the proposal to include the feedback provided. Once completed, he will send the proposal to Chair Orlandi, who will elicit final feedback from the committee members before forwarding it to the Township Committee.

Committee Member Updates

Mr. Foster - Stated there was not much to report at this time. The Environmental Commission opted not to participate in the Summer Spectacular event at Summer Road this year.

Ms. Rao - Reported that the Summer Spectacular was a great event and provided many opportunities to talk with residents about water-related issues. Mr. Foster's turtle tattoos for the children were a big hit; volunteers were able to talk with

the parents while the children were getting their tattoos. A big thank you to Samantha at Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) was given for providing flyers regarding well/water testing information that were handed out at the event. Members engaged in discussion regarding ways to promote well and septic maintenance at this year's well/water testing event.

The Rain Barrel workshop originally scheduled for June 24, 2023 had to be postponed due to low enrollment and the inability to get the rain barrel in time for the workshop. The next proposed timeframe for this workshop could be in September. The members discussed ways to promote this event, including ways to combine it with the well/water testing event advertising.

Reported that refreshments will be provided after the Memorial Day Parade and asked the members if they wanted to have a table for Waterwatch. She discussed several topics that can be presented at the table. It was mentioned that the Summer Spectacular would be another event where they could have a table.

Ms. Orlandi - Schools are on summer break so not much to report.

Ms. Huelsebusch – Reported that RHA has started moving into their space at the Darts Mill property and are very excited to be relocation to this space. RHA will be taking care of the signage. Additionally, it looks like there will be a suitable location for water sample drop-offs that will be ADA compliant. Members discussed how the Darts Mill property can be used for informal meetings.

Ms. Huelsebusch informed that she was included in a meeting with a representative, Kathy Hale, from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. This meeting was requested by the NJ Water Supply Authority to discuss a collaboration with their organization and Readington Township. It was stated that they are very interested in riparian zones and they may have monies to fund projects.

New/Other Business

Stream Monitoring - Update:

Chair Orlandi reported that efforts have been hampered this year due to the rain. In addition, once the weather gets hot, many of the metrics they are looking for are not able to be obtained. He stated many people have not been able to get their testing done at this point. He will reach out to RHA to see if there is a way to get the necessary testing done.

Social Media Distribution Channel:

Chair Orlandi reminded the members to look for ways to get information out on this distribution channel.

Comments

None

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Radziewicz
Advisory Boards Secretary