

**Readington Township
Waterwatch Advisory Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Orlandi at 7:05 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
Marlene Orlandi
Rene Rao
Lauren Huelsebusch

Absent

David Owen
Richard Geissler
Jonathan Heller

Guest Speaker:

Kathy Hail – Introduced herself as the Principal Watershed Protection Specialist with the NJ Water Authority. Kathy distributed brochures and informational handouts. Ms. Hail gave a history of the NJ Water Authority and the programs offered and areas serviced. Volunteer programs, school programs, resident programs, boat steward summer programs, partnerships with corporations and American Watershed Ambassador federal programs were explained and discussed. Stormwater and watershed restoration plans and their involvement in projects and the process of retrofitting water basins were explained. Ms. Hail mentioned by next January all stormwater and basins must be mapped on the ERI. Grant opportunities from the DEP were discussed. It must be submitted by December 31st. New Jersey Future released an MS4 guidebook for municipalities to comply with permits. The United States geological survey is conducting a track down study on cryptosporidium. Upgrading filtration systems using a multibarrier approach and visiting njriverfriendly.org were suggested. Small farm agricultural collaboration information, repairing buffer zones, watershed restorations, and stormwater management will be focused on next. A discussion occurred on having a MS4 presentation on regulation in January. RWW will set up another meeting at Dart's Mill to discuss during an information session this winter, possibly February.

Minutes

It was moved and seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for September 26, 2023, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Member Updates

Mr. Foster - Mr. Foster reported that the Township Committee has continued the decision if the municipality will continue providing garbage and recycling services. The decision will put a lot of pressure on stormwater and education.

- Ms. Rao - Ms. Rao stated day two of well testing has been completed. They had many volunteers and received 120 pre orders and 20 walkup orders to date. Feedback was provided by residents on how they heard about the event. Many people said the signs and one said from the digital school backpack. Septic and water information was provided on the tables as well. Badges from the summer road event were discussed. Some misunderstandings about the testing being free of charge and confusion of the traffic pattern of the lanes to pick up kits were discussed.
- Ms. Orlandi - No updates. Thanked Mr. Daly for putting the flyer in the digital backpack. Rockafellow's Mill meeting with the state representative folks in prep for the building renovation. Preservation of the water wheel was discussed as the building itself is not historical.
- Ms. Huelsebusch - Noted: the rescue squad will perform a demo of a simulated water rescue on October 29th at 2 PM and will show a new water rescue vehicle. Coordinated the "7th Grade Walk in the Woods" organized with the middle school. They will hike from the school to Holland Brook and discuss water quality and other topics.
- Mr. Foster - Mr. Foster added the walk takes you right past the rain garden on Roosevelt and retention basin and the ability to see all of the components make for a great water story as an educational component.
- Mr. Orlandi - US Fish and Wildlife has announced a funding program described as fish passage funding. Discussed in context of dams. Raritan headwaters have been and continues to remove dams. We have two on the south branch of Raritan; one at Dart's Mill and one at Rockafellow's Mill. RHA is heading this grant and Mario will support them with the information needed. RHA will be submitting a letter of interest in November on our behalf. A discussion took place on having a calendar with themed topics for each month. In the conception of RWW it was too ambitious but now a broad plan can start being put together to create momentum as an organization. For example, April will be Earth Month. Mr. Orlandi provided a draft to members, discussed, and continues to be worked on. Can be posted in January and then updated throughout the year. There is a great overlap with EC an open space, it could be a community calendar with a focus on water content.

New/Other Business

None

Comments

None

*Waterwatch Advisory Committee Meeting, continued
September 26, 2023*

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Monaghan
Advisory Boards Secretary