

TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MAY 4, 2021 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hendrickson calls the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

A. ROLL CALL

Present:

Neil Hendrickson, Robert Becker, Steve Foster, Jonathan Heller, Mario Orlandi, and Susan Masinda.

Jeff Charney and Jerry Cook joined soon after the meeting started.

Todd Terricone joined towards the end of the meeting.

B. MINUTES:

Steve Foster moved and Johnathan Heller second, motion to approve the minutes for April 6, 2021. All unanimously who were at the April meeting approved.

C. LOI/FRESHWATER WETLANDS:

LOI -3557 Route 22 East Block 39 Lot 3 – No comments.

D. AOC (AREAS OF CONCERN):

None

E. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

F. NEW BUSINESS:

F1. Holland Brook Project

Bill Millette and Robert Lewis were present to discuss the proposed stream crossing and partnership with Readington Township. Members brought up some concerns regarding the stream restoration work, change in turbidity sources and deer protection. Robert Lewis presented a slideshow based off Holland Brook Stream Aquatic Habitat Enhancement. The next step in the process was discussed regarding Township approval and DEP permits.

F1. School Green Committee

Tree camp and the promotion of the plastic ban was discussed between the members. A point was made regarding educating children on important environmental issues, so they can share this information with family and friends.

F2. Part-time Position to Support EC, OSAB, RWW

This potential position is currently in the works.

F3. Rockaway Creek Stream Evaluation 6/12/2021

Susan Masinda updated the members on the progress. Everything is progressing and they have volunteers available.

G. OTHER BUSINESS:

G1. Letter in Opposition to Cemetery

A letter in opposition to the cemetery is completed. Before the secretary sends it to the Planning Board, it will be circulated to members for review.

G2. Letter in Opposition for Legislature Forestry Bills

The 5 Legislature Forestry Bills were discussed. Members expressed their concerns and resistance towards these bills. A request to the Township Committee for a resolution to opposition will be sent out.

G3. Opposition to Water Park at Cornhuskers

The Environmental Commissions discussed concerns for water, which includes chlorination.

G4. Environmental Resource Inventory

The Environmental Resource Inventory was a discussion among members. It was pointed out that it has not been updated in 12 years, along with the maps and watersheds that will need updating. A request to the Township Committee will be sent out regarding an update.

G5. Sub Committee Updates

WaterWatch Advisory: Stream monitoring and stream cleanup was discussed at the last WaterWatch Advisory meeting.

G6. Grant Updates

The Pollinator Grant was submitted. No further updates.

G7. Adopt-a-Road Program

Members expressed the need for companies and businesses to adopt roads and to get more volunteers to help keep Readington Township clean. It was suggested to produce a plan and create a resolution.

G8. Hionis Greenhouses

This topic was brought up during the meeting by a member. Hionis Greenhouses is planning to put up a 48-archer mum field. Many concerns were expressed by members which include the violations of Municipal Land Ordinance, Municipal Stream Corridor Ordinance, and the Municipal Tree Ordinance. The map submitted from Hionis Greenhouses to Hunterdon Soil does not include an existing stream. It was also mentioned that there are no existing permits taken out with the town of DEP for this project. A

request will be created and distributed to the Zoning Department, Administration, and Township Committee for investigation.

H. SITE PLAN REVIEW AND COMMENT:

None

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

J. ADJOURNMENT

Jerry Cook moved Steve Foster second, motion to adjourn at 9:30pm. The next scheduled Environmental Commission meeting will be held on June 1st at 7:00pm. In order to comply with all NJ Executive Orders and to protect members of the public, current meetings will be held virtually for all parties until such time when in-person meetings can safely resume while complying with all NJ Executive Orders. When in-person meetings resume, they shall be held at Readington Township Municipal Building, 509 Route 523, Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889.

Approved: 6/1/2021