

**Readington Township Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2024**

**OPEN MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker at 7:04 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

**A) Roll Call**

Attendance	X = Present   - - - = Absent										
Member	2/6	3/5	4/2	5/7	6/4	7/2	8/6	9/	10/1	11/	12/3
Becker	X	X									
Charney	X	X									
Foster	X	X									
Giroud	X	X									
Heller	X	X									
Hendrickson	X	---									
Masinda	X	X									
Panico	X	X									
Ward	X	X									

**B) Approval of Minutes:**

2/6/2024 Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended, seconded, and carried by all. Mr. Heller abstained.

**C) LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:**

None.

**D) AOC (Areas of Concern):**

**1. Immediate Environmental Concern List:**

Mr. Becker drafted a letter to the DEP which was discussed and reviewed. The letter requests more information, a list of the affected residents, and specific questions to address. Jonathan recommended being proactive on the matter by sending a questionnaire to residents. Members discussed who is overseeing the follow up and appropriate response time. Members were all in favor of sending the discussed response letter and take no further action pending a response.

**E) Correspondence:**

**1. Airport Update:**

Members appreciate the letter received by Congressman Kean. Susan Masinda is part of the citizen advisory group, Branchburg Readington Airport Action Committee (BRAAC). Members have met with Township Committee members to make the township aware that the committee is there to support them and would like their support. A website will be created to keep the public informed. Susan will report back if there is any role for the EC to play. It was noted by a member that the group's concern is regarding airport expansion and not how it exists today.

**2. Volunteer Request:**

Discussed amongst members. The chair will send a response that the correspondence has been received, show support of the removal of invasive species, and make connections for future opportunities. No further action taken.

**F) New Business:**

**1. 2023 Deer Report by RVCC:**

The chair discussed the factual and comprehensive report. A discussion occurred regarding the process of presenting this report and when and who was involved. A link to the report will be published on the Readington Township website.

**2. 2024-25 Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee Deer Management**

Jason presented the 2024-2025 Deer Management Program Plan. He discussed what the program is and who is involved. Jason presented the information and statistics for the last few years. He highlighted in 2019, 8 hunters participated in the first year of program and this year the program had 53 participants. The Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee maintains a budget. Jason stated the program costs zero dollars and brings in money. The Subcommittee includes individuals from EC, open space, township committee, trails association, hunting clubs, and individual permit holders. Members read and discussed the document of recommendations for the 2024-2025 season which included a summary of data, signage, safety, 7 additional properties, quota changes, and reporting requirements. Members discussed edits to the proposed recommendations presented. If anyone has a public safety concern or sees illegal hunters on properties, they should contact the police.

Motion made by Mr. Becker to approve the recommendations with the following conditions:

1. Signage needs to be posted and highly visible.
2. Properties bordering newly hunted properties to be notified the first year.
3. Block 45 Lot 10.02 parcel to be approved pending review of the deed restriction.
4. That ground hunting be discouraged and thoroughly reviewed before granting an exemption.

Stephanie Panico seconded the motion. Susan Masinda opposed. Jonathan Heller abstained.

**3. Resiliency**

Resiliency planning discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

**1. 319H Grant: Green Infrastructure Project"**

Steve Foster presentation covered the history of the Grant with the Department of Environmental Protection of New Jersey initiated in 2015 and recently completed at a cost of \$688,000. The grant funded green infrastructure systems to control stormwater runoff. Projects accomplished as a result of the grant included stormwater basins, riparian buffer zones, and educational events. Locations include the Buffalo Farm, Pleasant Run, Holland Brook Middle School, Hillcrest Park, and Three Bridges school. Information plaques are posted at the sites. These locations will provide an example of the constructions and commentary on stormwater management. Copies of the presentation will be made available for members. All projects are highly visible and educational, and everyone is encouraged to visit. An ArcGIS Story Map was created by a team of Readington Township residents and students who were designated the task to document the Three Bridges Bio-

Retention project process. The maintenance accountability is DPW. A portion of our stewardship can be used for this and in addition members can organize follow-up. The RWW and EC would like to continue with the projects and host rain barrel workshops on the open space and museum properties or have a family event at a park and provide giveaway such as seeds and provide information. Raritan headwaters is supportive of all initiatives discussed.

**2. 2023 EC Annual Report:**

Members reviewed and discussed the 2023 EC annual report. Duplicate information was listed in item 11. A motion was made to approve the annual report as corrected, seconded, and carried by all. The report will be submitted to the Township Committee.

**3. Community Energy Report:**

No report.

**4. Environmental Resource Inventory:**

The chair asked if anyone had any comments to make. Jason commented that it has great content and is very informational. Robert Becker made a motion that the EC support the Princeton Hydro ERI document. Jeff Charney seconded the motion. All in favor, no nays recorded. It was requested that a link to the ERI be posted on the EC page of the Township Website and the reference to the 2002 version be removed.

**H) Site Plan Review and Comment:**

None.

**I) Public Comment:**

EC Member Stephanie Panico discussed the Summer Spectacular and value of including environmental theme. The EC has had a table at the event in the past. Sustainable New Jersey points are awarded for holding a Green Fair. A Green Fair is a community wide event that educates and encourages people of all ages to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle and promotes sustainability in the community and the wider economy. Stephanie discussed possible displays, environmental crafts and games, and marketing for a Green Fair along with the Summer Spectacular on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Members supports participation, Chair to contact Rec Committee about participating in the program.

EC Member Steve Foster recommended attending ANJEC's annual training on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> for new members and members who have not yet attended. Steve highlighted the benefits of the in-person training for plan review.

No public comments were made.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:32 p.m., seconded, and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Danielle Monaghan*  
Advisory Boards Secretary