

**Readington Township Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 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	X								
Charney	X	X	X								
Foster	X	X	X								
Giroud	X	X	X								
Heller	X	X	X								
Hendrickson	X	---	X								
Masinda	X	X	X								
Panico	X	X	X								
Ward	X	X	X								

**B) Approval of Minutes:**

3/6/2024 Minutes: Steve Foster made a motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Jeff Charney, and carried by all.

**C) LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:**

None.

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

**1. Correspondence Received from Verdantas:**

Members discussed who receives the correspondence and the letter discussing the exemption for well restriction. This is Classification Exemption Area (CEA). There is a well restriction for potable ground water usage based off of NJDEP regulations. History can be found on data miner traceable by the PI number. Ground water contamination delineating two contaminants of concern and their concentrations were detected on site in 2012, remedial investigation took place in 2017, and remedial action was initiated in 2022. Cassandra Ward gave an overview of the general process and timeframes of remedial action and monitoring. Jonathan Heller will create a list of properties with contamination and follow up. It was suggested to maintain a standardized format document in the EC annual report to track environmental concerns and volunteer organizations.

**E) Correspondence:**

None.

**F) New Business:**

**1. Community Deer Management Grant:**

Members discussed the Community Deer Management Grant which provides funding to address overabundant deer in New Jersey's urban landscape, including through meeting

signage, data, and deer processing needs to effectively facilitate or maintain Community-Based Deer Management programs. The grant is currently in review and submissions are due 5/3/24.

## **2. Charge Station Review**

EV charging programs and the 50,000 grant were discussed. There are two that the state offers a) Plug In Pay and b) EV Tourism. The \$50,000 grant submission is due 5/3/24 and currently in review.

## **3. Resiliency**

The municipal land use law (MLUL) was discussed. There are environmental elements in the master plan. Redington does not have an element for sustainability or environment. The state has issued a new guideline requiring a resiliency element/component. EC will take the first step in initiating the resiliency plan. The environmental changes including increasing temperatures, drought, more flooding, and more severe weather could change our stream quality. These hazards include mudslides, wildfires, diseases, agricultural and ecological issues. We will identify critical elements that we have to sustain under a higher level of hazards such as the municipal building, police department, and fire department. The location will be ranked against the resistance to these hazards in a color-coded matrix. Phase 2 will focus on reducing vulnerability. The chair will send out a link to all members to complete the training module.

## **4. Community Energy**

Part of a grant being considered has a community energy component. community solar is an interest. Nothing further to report.

### **F) New Business:**

#### **1. Environmental Commission Current Grants**

Members discussed the current tracking of grants. The Township Committee is discussing the possibility of hiring a grant writer. Redington received the street safety grant. The Community Forestry Grant is due shortly. Members discussed the Tree Planting Grant. The DEP has not given final approval yet, but we have been awarded it for two years. The chair will send out a sample report to members to review.

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

None.

### **I) Public Comment:**

EC Member Susan Masinda gave an update on the E. Coli study that was submitted to the DEP. The Flatwoods/Silver Bit property deed between the township and EIT was discussed. The contract states hunting is prohibited and says the deed must reflect that. It is no longer being considered as a hunting property.

BRAAC has a website, NoAirportExpansion.com, for information and email notifications.

The ANJEC open space stewardship grants were discussed. No one has suggested anything. The Chair will check with open space and the trails committee. Stephanie Panico discussed the Summer Spectacular and the value of including environmental theme. The Recreation Director was amenable to the idea of allowing a green fair component at the summer spectacular on June 18<sup>th</sup>. All tables must be

nonprofit. Raritan Headwaters will attend with their truck. The safety home energy group sponsored by PSEG has a traveling road show with a booth to give the public information on home energy improvement and Hunters Helping the Hungry were options discussed. Suggestions should be directed to the Chair and Stephanie Panico. A new environmental commission banner displaying the new logo was discussed.

The chair would like to come up with a liaison project with the school's green team. Cathleen Dorety commented about the potential hiring of a grant writer and as someone who works in the school district and writes grants, and it is a large part of her career, stated it is something worth exploring. A grant writer would ensure the bio sketch is in the correct format and review grants for completion.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Charney at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Jonathan Heller. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Danielle Monaghan*  
Advisory Boards Secretary