

**Readington Township Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2024**

OPEN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker at 7:00 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	X							
Charney	X	X	X	---							
Foster	X	X	X	X							
Giroud	X	X	X	X							
Heller	X	X	X	X							
Hendrickson	X	---	X	X							
Masinda	X	X	X	X							
Panico	X	X	X	X							
Ward	X	X	X	X							

In Attendance:

Doug Vornlocker

B) Approval of Minutes:

4/2/2024 Minutes: Steve Foster made a motion was made to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Susan Masinda, and carried by all.

C) LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:

D) AOC (Areas of Concern):

1. DEP Data Miner Tracking

Members discussed the document. It was noted that listing specific street addresses would be beneficial.

E) Correspondence:

None.

F) New Business:

1. Lead Remediation and Abatement Grant Program:

Members discussed the grant awarded to Norwescap for Hunterdon County. Neither the township nor county Boards of Health were aware of any planning details.

G) Old Business:

1. Climate Adaption Training:

Members discussed online training.

2. NJDEP Climate Change Statewide Resilience Action Plans:

Members discussed the master municipal land use law required statement of resiliency and how municipalities will adapt to climate change. Robert has mapped the process. First, understanding the sustainable assets in the community that need to be protected from climate change. Then assess the impact of these facilities on rain, storms and fires, vector-borne diseases, ecological diseases, wildfires, drought, and mudslides. Lastly, adaptability and how well our response can be. The chair posed the question of what facilities should be assessed. Members gave ideas and the list will be compiled, and locations pinned on a map.

3. Grant Applications:

Readington was awarded the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Grant which will now be taken over by Jim Curry. The Community Energy Grant has been submitted. Readington schools have done a job and have momentum in community energy. The Forestry Plan will be provided to the committee and the impact of that study is currently under review. It was recommended that an official request from EC to the TC for the availability of the forest inventory reports and the request for public engagement be submitted. A stewardship program should be organized to coordinate with RVCC so that data can be used for action and create an intelligent and intentional plan to rejuvenate the forest. Doug Vornlocker introduced himself as an adjunct professor at RVCC. He will be the liaison between the advisory boards and the college to help coordinate data collection.

Still waiting for final DEP approval for the planting grant.

Grant money is available for EV charging. EV charging is currently being looked into and Jeff Charney is collecting data. It was noted that PSEG and some townships are requiring generators to be installed where EV chargers are being installed.

Deer Community Grant was submitted and reviewed. If awarded, the grant will provide \$5,000 for venison donation, \$20,000 for subsequent deer density surveys, and 150 metal signs for hunting properties.

4. Updates: Airport, WaterWatch, DEP e coli, DEP Sites with Environmental Concern, "Green Fair":

Susan Masinda reported that BRACC had cards printed out and the website is up and running to sign up for email updates. An ad will be placed in the Branchburg newspaper to direct people to the website.

Steve Foster provided a WaterWatch update steam clean-up. WaterWatch applied and received a grant with RHA for riparian restoration along the Chambers Brook. WaterWatch has planted nearly 900 trees of 28 varieties.

Members discussed Will Daly's 8th-grade civics project for the deer enclosure on Stanton Road to remove invasive species.

Susan Masinda gave an update on the Rockaway Creek E. Coli study. Susan spoke with Frank Lepinski from the DEP and Bob Shuster who is the watershed coordinator. Bob is a source track down specialist who will assist in pinpointing the source. HCHD will not do anything without a specific address. Susan and Jonathan will further discuss.

The Chair reported that DEP has not yet responded to the sites of environmental concern.

Stephanie discussed the idea of a Green Fair at Summer Spectacular with the Recreation Department. Other possible events were discussed as alternatives such as the Memorial Day parade, tree giveaway event, or having a stand-alone event.

H) Site Plan Review and Comment:

None.

I) Public Comment:

None.

J) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Susan at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Jonathan Heller. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Monaghan
Advisory Boards Secretary