

**Readington Township Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 2, 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	10/1	11/12	12/3
Becker	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Charney	X	X	X	---	X	X					
Foster	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Giroud	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Heller	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Hendrickson	X	---	X	X	X	X					
Masinda	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Panico	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Ward	X	X	X	X	---	---					

**B) Approval of Minutes:**

6/4/2024 Minutes: Susan Masinda made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Steve Foster, and carried by all.

**C) LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:**

None.

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

**1. DEP Sites of Environmental Concern**

A letter was sent to the head of that department alerting them we have not received a response.

**E) Correspondence:**

None.

**F) New Business:**

**1. Forest Hill**

In 2013, the township purchased 20 acres of land in Three Bridges. In 2013 we received our first Sustainable New Jersey grant to develop the property as a learning woods/environmental center. A deer enclosure was put in there. In 2016 there was a ribbon cutting. The site has interpretive signs listing educational facts. Trees have QR codes that link to a site that tells you about the tree. Now, the deer enclosure is overgrown with wisteria and other plants and there is damage to the sign. We are reviewing to see if it should be saved or redesigned and by who. Schools green team and girl scouts are interested. The trails and benches are intact but there needs to be maintenance. This property is now on the deer management list as of this year as bow only and will be marked with signage. The rec department is now sponsoring walks on the

properties. Many of the properties are not wheelchair accessible or walkable for those with canes and no places to sit.

## **2. Sustainable Jersey**

The township passed a resolution that the Sustainable Jersey effort will now be a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission. The chair discussed the new Sustainable Action Team and the multiple actions that have been done in the past.

## **3. Land stewardship program.**

The chair is working with RVCC and Juergen Huelsebusch. Preliminary targets, actions, and goals have been set. RVCC is gathering data and working 2 days a week funded by payments from Readington Township and grant funds from other organizations. The list of possible projects was discussed. Neil discussed the pros and cons and benefits to the township with the yielded results. Members discussed the relationship of RVCC and Readington Township as a great benefit to both the school and the township. The Chair emphasized improving the tracking of contributions and actions going forward.

## **G) Old Business:**

### **1. MLUL Resiliency Analysis: Open Discussion on Global Warming on Climate Change, what will change by how much. Impact on: Temperature, Precipitation, Water Supply, Woods, and Meadows:**

Jeff summarized the data report and stated we have already gone beyond predictions for rain events, etc. Members discussed the frequency of events, probability calculations, and current climate conditions. NJ is experiencing the greatest impact increase storm severity and increased draught which could create changes in landscape. Members discussed all the changes in temperature changes directly relating to plants, pollinators, lands near waterways, and potential ecological and environmental effects. Members discussed the resiliency of multiple locations around the township. Heat maps and other overlays were discussed. Readington by its structure has some resilience, and we will look to find the vulnerabilities to address. Steve noted the importance of this conversation and the awareness for residents. Members discussed the Ryland property's detention basin, stormwater ordinance, and MS4 requirements.

### **2. Rockaway Creek**

No update.

### **3. Grants:**

Jeff discussed EV chargers. He has been in contact with a company gathering information. It is considerably less complex and costly. The technologically quite advanced. In reviewing the grant, JCPL will cover some installation costs. He asked for a proposal and references.

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

### **1. Block 81 Lot 1 - Apartments at Three Bridges Holdings LLC (Conifer)**

Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan- Multi-Family Development

Appl# PB 24-005-Block 81 Lot 1

The members reviewed and discussed the plans. There were no major concerns.

## **I) Public/Members Comment:**

Susan submitted an OPRA request to DEP on the Solberg Master Plan.

Stephanie provided an update on the Green Fair September 28<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 2 pm at Bunt Park in Lebanon. Planning is still ongoing between the 4 municipalities participating.

A brief discussion regarding the Summer Spectacular occurred.

Neil discussed that RHA got a grant for a stream water test station to measure climate effect changes on water quality.

Sustainable Action Team meetings can be called as needed and do not need to have posted agendas. The EC chair offered to notify, by request, those who are interested when meetings will be held.

Mr. Roth discussed JCPL smart meters. Electromagnetic effect on those around you. Recommended that a greater discussion occur on a local level and more information should be available to residents. Just posting on the Township Committee agenda is not sufficient.

**D) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Foster, seconded by Stephanie Panico at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Danielle Monaghan*  
Advisory Board Secretary