

**Readington Township Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 1, 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 - = Meeting Canceled										
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	-	X	X		
Charney	X	X	X	---	X	X	-	X	X		
Foster	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X		
Giroud	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X		
Heller	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X		
Hendrickson	X	---	X	X	X	X	-	X	---		
Masinda	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X		
Panico	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X		
Ward	X	X	X	X	---	---	-	X	---		

B) Approval of Minutes:

9/10/2024 Susan Masinda and made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Jonathan Heller, and carried by all.

C) LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:

None.

D) AOC (Areas of Concern):

1. Contaminated Sites Update:

The members discussed the DEP’s response to the EC’s questions. The DEP also submitted a claims list.

The burden is on the homeowner to test and maintain their systems. Homeowners are compensated from a spill fund

Administratively closed.

A new list of procedural questions will be submitted to the DEP. How is the data being managed?

E) Correspondence:

1. Application for a NJDEP Flood Hazard Area and Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit: PSE&G Electrical Transmission Line Right-of-ways Vegetation Maintenance Program:

Mr. Giroud discussed how this is a standard procedure. Mr. Heller said in the past that they requested some vegetation be left near streams to prevent erosion in some areas such as Cole Road. PSEG certified arborists over see license contractors. Concerns are if they use chemicals near streams or get rid of vegetation that could cause erosion. If damage is done, they can follow up.

F) Old Business:

1. **MLUL Hazard Impact Score and Review:** Member reviewed the impact score. The chair went through the categories and criteria and the result of the scores. The chair connected with the Agricultural Land Committee and took the information and added it to the impact score. The chair also plans to meet with Readington OEM and DPW to discuss the adaptive capacity issue and Social Services for input on vulnerable populations. Primarily our emergency response teams are volunteers.
2. **Project Updates: Highlands Green Fair, Rockaway Creek, Airport, Deer Management, Sustainable Action Team, Bioblitz, Land Stewardship:** The Highlands Green Fair outcome was discussed. The weather was not great. Around 20 people stopped by the table, including 1 resident interested in potentially joining the EC. Susan reported on the Rockaway Creek updates. The DEP completed the quality assurance project plan. They have 7 sites to start sampling following rain events over a 3-year period. Susan also reported that the airport ordinance will be revised. There is still no information to update on the Solberg Airport situation. Jason reported on the deer management program. 56 harvested to date. A police liaison has been assigned to handle matters such as illegal deer stands. The members discussed Hunters Helping the Hungry program, fees, and the grant received for this year. The Sustainable Jersey Program team is being led by Bob Spielberger and looking for others to join. The Bioblitz is a national month-long event that encourages the community to document biodiversity. The Bioblitz walk coordinated by rec had 4 or 5 participants and people participated individually as well. Nothing to report on Land Stewardship.

G) New Business:

1. **Communications on Website and Facebook**
The chair would like to get more information out to residents via Facebook and has discussed with the Hunterdon County and DEP flyers, infographics, and information to distribute. Further discussion has been postponed until the next meeting.
2. **Trees** – Update the fence will be done in October. No burn date has been set for Dreahook Road. The management plan needs to be updated by the end of the year but can be granted a grace period. The DEP is offering grant money to hire someone to help facilitate the forest management plan. This will need to be considered for budgeting next year. the concern is the management of forestry and meadows. Need to prioritize a meeting and have everyone engaged.

H) Site Plan Review and Comment:

1. Hayden's House: Appl# ZB24-004 Block 57 Lot 7 – 11 Forty Oaks Road

This application came before the Board of Adjustment because it is non-permitted use. There are waivers on environmental issues. Susan Masinda gave a background on the property. The residential home to be used as a retreat location.

The members discussed the application.

Technical Review Committee before the applicants submitted to the BOA.

If there is an addition, it will go to the Zoning Board.

Memo to the EC:

the receipt of this application, the concern for:

The septic

Impervious surface coverage

Noise and vibrations

The nonprofit statement

Status of this application?

EC memo to Board of Adjustment

Robert Becker made a motion for a memo to be sent to the Board of Adjustment acknowledging seconded by Stephanie Panico and carried by all.

I) Public/Members Comment:

None.

J) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stephanie Panico, seconded by Susan Masinda at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Monaghan
Advisory Board Secretary