

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2021

PRESENT (via teleconference):

MEMBER	JAN 6	FEB 3	MAR 3	APR 7	MAY 5	JUN 2	AUG 4	SEP 1	OCT 6	NOV 3
Mr. Huelsebusch, Chair	X	X								
Mrs. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X								
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X								
Mr. John	X	X								
Dr. Kelly	X	X								
Mrs. Madon		X								
Mr. Mueller	X	X								
Mr. Orlandi	X	X								
Mrs. Owen	X	X								
Mr. Bola, 1st Alternate	X	X								
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X								

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Ryan Kurtz, Michael Kurtz, Tatiana Hlinka, Jonathan Heller, Rebekah Buczynski, Jerry Cook, Darlene Mitchell, and others.

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Website:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that an update on new Gerison parcel has been posted.
- 2) **Volunteer Sessions/Trail Walks:** Chris John stated that sessions and trail walks are put on hold due to the weather. Chris also stated that the Rocky Road trail has been connected to other trails.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Adam Mueller made a motion to approve the January minutes, with Anne Owen seconding the motion. Motion was approved.

SCOUT PROJECTS:

Adam Mueller stated he is working with two Scouts on the following projects:

- 1) **Mason Bees:** Cadette Girl Scout Tatiana Hlinka presented her Silver Award project to the Board. The project would include spreading awareness and education about mason bees and building three (3) mason beehives to donate and erect at Readington Community Garden and various trails in the Township. Adam Mueller, John Klotz, and Dr. Jay Kelly will work with Tatiana on specific locations for the beehives and timeline for installations.
- 2) **Lachenmayr Trail:** Eagle Boy Scout Ryan Kurtz presented an overview of improvements needed for the trail. Ryan's project will include creating a new map of the trail for use on the Township website and GPS, installing new trail markers, building mini kiosks for the trailheads, and constructing a new bridge for crossing the stream along the trail. Adam Mueller will be the contact person for Ryan. Dr. Jay Kelly offered Ryan the use of professional mapping software to create the trail map.

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation:** Julia Allen stated that the Saums farm application is moving forward and working towards a possible summer closing date.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB Update:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the January monthly meeting was cancelled; next meeting is scheduled in March.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:**
 - a. **Plastics Ban:** Neil Hendrickson stated that the Board needs to discuss ways to communicate to Township residents about the upcoming plastics ban.
 - b. **NJ Shade Tree Federation:** Neil Hendrickson asked the board members to consider becoming a member of the NJ Shade Tree Federation. Neil stated that he is on the executive board and currently the only member from Open Space Advisory Board.
 - c. **Deer Management:** Adam Mueller stated the 2020/21 deer season is almost over and individual permits have outperformed expectations. Clubs and individual permit holders are submitting data and this data will be discussed and presented to the Environmental Commission and Township Committee.
 - d. **Green Team:** Jonathan Heller stated the Sustainable Jersey Green Team is being reinstated by the Township and asked for volunteers to serve on the team. Jonathan gave a brief overview of the functions of the Green Team.
- 4) **WaterWatch:** Mario Orlandi stated that the new Township WaterWatch Advisory Committee held their first official meeting last week. Mario stated that the committee has

two new members: Jonathan Heller and Trish McGuire. Mario stated that the committee will be working on updating the stormwater management ordinance. Mario also stated that the committee will work on different themes each month – themes to include activities such as stream monitoring and watersheds in cooperation with Raritan Headwaters. These activities will be open to the general public.

MEADOW MANAGEMENT:

Dr. Jay Kelly stated that action item files have been revised after feedback from the board. Dr. Kelly presented a brief overview of the updated Proposed Action Items project list. This list included grassland birds, mowing schedule, burning, invasive species, tree planting, and education/outreach opportunities. Jonathan Heller suggested a sub-committee to create a list of immediate action items for recommendation to the Township Committee. Dr. Kelly asked for volunteers for the sub-committee and stated that action items will be presented to the Board at the next Open Space meeting.

Dr. Kelly also stated that Bald Eagles have returned to nesting on Mill Road along Rockaway Creek.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails:** Chris John stated that the sub-committee is working on a database of all the projects/trails and reviewing projects for the spring.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: No comments

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: No comments

ADJOURN: Adam Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Jay Kelly, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter