

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 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	X	X						
Mrs. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X	X	X						
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X	X	X						
Mr. John	X	X	X	X						
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X	X						
Mrs. Madon		X	X							
Mr. Mueller	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Orlandi	X	X	X	X						
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Bola, 1st Alternate	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X	X	X						

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Deputy Mayor Jonathan Heller, Bob Linz, Ryan Linz, Jerry Cook (on at 7:52 PM).

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Website:** Neil Hendrickson stated that an article on periodical cicadas has been posted to the Township website. Chair Huelsebusch stated that the scrolling pictures on the main page are being updated.
- 2) **Open Space Walks:** Julia Allen suggested restarting the monthly open space walks/hikes. After discussion, the board tentatively planned the next walk for Sunday, May 16. Further details will be discussed at the next board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Klotz made a motion to approve the March minutes, with Julia Allen seconding the motion. Motion was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chair Huelsebusch stated that in the future all major correspondence will be posted on the Open Space Advisory Board web page.

SCOUT PROJECT:

Adam Mueller introduced Life Scout Ryan Linz and his father Bob Linz.

Trail Bridge Crossings: Ryan Linz presented his Eagle Scout project that encompasses a connector trail loop on Arman's trail and construction of three (3) wooden bridges spanning several crossings along the trail. Ryan stated that he anticipates the project will be completed this summer.

Adam Mueller made a motion to support Ryan's project, seconded by Neil Hendrickson. Motion was approved.

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation/Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that the application for the 54 acre portion of Saums farm is waiting for cost share funding approval from SADC (State Agriculture Development Committee). Julia stated that she anticipates getting approval at the next SADC meeting in May and closing on the property by late summer.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB Update:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the next monthly meeting is scheduled for May 24 and he will update the board afterwards.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:**
 - a. **Deer Management:** Adam Mueller stated that he will have a formal update on the program at the next OSAB meeting.
 - b. **Plastics Collection:** Neil Hendrickson stated that a TREX plastic bench will be created and donated to the Township as a result of the plastics collection bins located at the Township schools, library and municipal building. The board will discuss at a future meeting as to where the bench will be placed.
 - c. **State Forest Stewardship Plan:** Neil Hendrickson stated that he received information from Township Administrator, Rich Sheola, about a pending bill from State of New Jersey concerning forest management. Neil stated that the pending bill would override all local management of forests over 25 acres. Neil stated that he opposes the bill and will work with the board to submit a letter to the State. The board will discuss further next month.
- 4) **WaterWatch Update:**
 - a. **Annual Stream Clean-Up:** Mario Orlandi stated that the annual Stream Clean-up, held in collaboration with Raritan Headwaters, will be held on April 17 from 9 to 12. Mario stated this program has limited capacity and participants must be pre-registered.
 - b. **Rosehill Cemetery:** Mario stated that he, along with members of the Environmental Commission, will be attending hearings to oppose this project and its' impact to local waterways and streams.

- c. **Streams Map:** Mario stated that WaterWatch members are discussing working with Raritan Headwaters on the creation of a streams map. This would be an educational tool for residents to access.
- d. **Social Media:** Mario stated that WaterWatch members are discussing creation of a facebook page.

UPDATES:

Cornhuskers Park: Chair Huelsebusch asked Dr. Kelly to submit a list of non-infrastructure alternatives and natural recommendations to be included in the updates to Cornhuskers Park. Members of the board will conduct a site visit on April 10 at 9:00 AM.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Stewardship Personnel:** Dr. Kelly reiterated the advantage of hiring a dedicated person helping with Open Space, Meadow Management, trail maps, etc. Dr. Kelly stated that this person would be responsible for maintaining trails and kiosks, public outreach, conducting trail walks, assisting with deer management programs and research along with other tasks. Dr. Kelly stated that there are grant opportunities available to help fund this position. Adam Mueller made a motion to support exploring the idea of creating a part time Stewardship position, Neil Hendrickson seconded the motion. Dr. Kelly abstained. Motion was passed.
- 2) **Tree Seedling Giveaway:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the 2021 Tree Seedling Giveaway is scheduled for Sat., April 24 from 9:00 AM to 12 noon and will be conducted as a drive thru event at the municipal building. Chair Huelsebusch and Neil Hendrickson reviewed the event procedure and logistics with the board. Neil stated that he will pick up the seedlings on April 22. Adam Mueller stated that he will create a spreadsheet to be used at the event. Julia Allen offered to call the schools to coordinate the seedling distribution to the students.
- 3) **Trails Subcommittee:** Chris John stated that he is hoping to start up trail clean-up sessions in May. Discussion on various times for future work sessions.
- 4) **Stewardship:** Dr. Kelly stated that all the action items for Meadow Management that the board recommended were approved by the Township Committee. Dr. Kelly also stated that maps and documents were given to the Public Works Director for guidance with mowing.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Anne Owen reminded board members to send her the number of hours they volunteer. Emanuel Bola stated that he will send an updated trail map to board members tomorrow and will have it posted to the webpage.

ADJOURN: Adam Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Neil Hendrickson, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter