

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 5, 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	X					
Mrs. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X					
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X	X	X	X					
Mr. John	X	X	X	X	X					
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X	X	X					
Mrs. Madon		X	X		X					
Mr. Mueller	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Orlandi	X	X	X	X	X					
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X	X	X					
Mr. Bola, 1st Alternate	X	X	X	X	X					
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X	X	X	X					

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Deputy Mayor Jonathan Heller, Susan Masinda, Jerry Cook, Kariann Marshall.

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:08 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 the home page of the Township website has been updated with new pictures.
- 2) **Open Space Walks:** Julia Allen stated that the monthly walks will resume with the first one planned for Sunday, May 16 on Lazy Brook Trail.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Klotz made a motion to approve the April minutes, with Neil Hendrickson seconding the motion. Motion was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation/Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that cost share funding from SADC (State Agriculture Development Committee) will most likely be approved at the next meeting the end of May. Julia stated that closing on the property could be late summer. Chair Huelsebusch stated that the timeframe for closing and auction on Saums property will be updated at the May SADC meeting. Chair Huelsebusch stated that closing is anticipated for September with auction following later.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the next monthly meeting is scheduled for May 24. Chair Huelsebusch stated closing on the 37 acre Stanton Mountain property will be next week.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:**
 - a. **Readington Schools:** Neil Hendrickson stated that Readington Schools contacted him and want to get more involved with the community. Neil asked the Board to contact him with comments or suggestions. Julia Allen stated that a Readington Middle School teacher contacted her about the “Walk in the Woods” program.
 - b. **Rosehill/Rosedale Cemetery:** Neil stated that with help from Susan Masinda’s research, a letter of opposition addressed to Rosehill/Rosedale Cemetery was sent to the Township Committee for consideration.
 - c. **Forestry Bill:** Neil stated that letters were also sent to the State Legislation opposing the upcoming forestry (logging) bills.
 - d. **Environmental Inventory:** Neil stated that the Township inventory was last done in 2009 and needs to be updated.
 - e. **Adopt-a-Road:** Neil stated that he would like to institute this program in the Township. Discussion to follow at a later meeting.
- 4) **WaterWatch Update:**
 - a. **Stream Mapping:** Mario Orlandi stated that members are working on creating a stream map for residents to use to access their property and locate nearby streams and tributaries. This map would be used for educational purposes and to promote healthy water and cleaner environmental options.
 - b. **Stream Monitoring:** Mario stated that he would like to see an expansion of stream monitoring in the Township. This program would be conducted in collaboration with Raritan Headwaters.
 - c. **Cornhuskers Park:** Mario stated that he has concerns in reference to a new water park in the planning stages for Cornhuskers Park, such as: chlorination, distribution, etc.

UPDATES:

Cornhuskers Park: Chair Huelsebusch stated that members of the Board conducted a recent site walk in preparation for recommendations to the Township Committee. Discussion was held on the list of recommendations. The Board will streamline and rework the recommendations prior to submitting to Township Committee. Additional discussion will be held at next month's meeting.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Chris John stated that although the subcommittee has not met yet for Spring, trail work is continuing. John Klotz will schedule the next work session and also presented a check list of tasks that need to be completed (i.e. gate locks, clearing logs across trails, installing trails markers, signage, etc.). Anne Owens stated that signs need to be erected at the trailheads showing "No ATV's" allowed. Discussion was held on ways to deter ATV's from entering the fields and disrupting the trails and fields. Suggestions included locked physical barriers made from concrete and steel installed at trailheads, signage, and combination locks on gates. The Board will make a recommendation to the Township Committee to purchase "No ATV" signs for the trails.

- 2) **Stewardship:** Dr. Kelly updated the Board on location and status of rare Yellow Spring Beauty native plant.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Jerry Cook stated that at their last meeting, the Environmental Commission expressed concerns for a proposed waterpark at Cornhuskers Park. Kariann Marshall stated that she and her husband recently filled a section of the power trail in Pickell Park with wood chips.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Sandra Madon stated that she is in contact with local Girl Scout troops and will present project ideas at a future meeting.

ADJOURN: Neil Hendrickson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Klotz, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter