

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Susan Masinda, Jerry Cook, Deputy Mayor Jonathan Heller (joined at 8:08 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:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the Prescott Brook acquisition was posted on the Township website.
- 2) **Open Space Walks:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the first open space walk since COVID was held on Sunday, May 16 on Lazy Brook Trail. Julia Allen stated that there was a turnout of 15 walkers and OSAB will continue to schedule open space walks the 3rd Sunday of the month. The next walk will be held on Sunday, June 20.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation/Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that the Township received final approval for funding from SADC (State Agriculture Development Committee) on Saums property. Chair Huelsebusch stated that he will address contacting an auctioneer for the sale of the farm and property at the June 21 Township Committee meeting.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that nothing noteworthy concerning Readington was addressed at the last meeting. Next meeting will be held the end of July.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:**
 - a. **Forestry Bill:** Neil Hendrickson stated that forestry (logging) bills are at a standstill most likely due to pressure and pushback from the public.
 - b. **Environmental Inventory:** Neil stated that he is in discussion with Township Administrator, Rich Sheola, on updating the inventory.
 - c. **Adopt-a-Road:** Neil stated that he will be contacting Recreation Director, Gabrielle Bolarakis, to discuss this project.
 - d. **Deer Management:** Neil stated that the program was successful with a count of 985 deer killed on a combination of Township private and public lands. Neil stated that a few more properties will be added to this year's property list. Chair Huelsebusch stated that hunting clubs and hunting individuals killed a total of 193 deer on Township owned property.

The board discussed several properties and the options available for hunting use. Neil Hendrickson made a motion to make a recommendation to the Township Committee for adding the following open space parcels to the list of hunting properties available to clubs and/or individuals: -2- Lorenzen parcels (22 acres, 8 acres); western Whitehouse parcel (B 13, L 21) possibly excluding area behind Whitehouse Methodist Church along Whitehouse Greenway; Thor Solberg Rd. parcel (50 acres / B 57, L 2); Brierson/BOE parcel; Rt. 523/former Township dump; Ferguson parcel; Fitzgerald parcel (Coddington Rd.); Arman's trail (with restrictions). Motion was seconded by Jay Kelly; motion was approved.

4) **WaterWatch Update:**

- a. **Stream Monitoring:** Mario Orlandi stated that June is designated as Stream Monitoring Month and last month five (5) volunteers from Readington were trained in stream monitoring. Once the volunteers apprentice for one season, they will be able to monitor streams under the strict guidelines of NJDEP.

UPDATES:

Cornhuskers Park: Dr. Jay Kelly presented a revised version and summary of recommendations for Cornhuskers Park. The board discussed minor changes to the revised recommendations. A motion to

approve the recommendations was made by Anne Owens, seconded by Jay Kelly, all approved. Chair Huelsebusch will present the recommendations to the Township Committee.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Stewardship:** Dr. Jay Kelly asked for an update on the status of a Township Stewardship Coordinator. Chair Huelsebusch will speak with Township Administrator Rich Sheola and update the board at a future meeting.

John Klotz shared photos of swaths of meadow that someone partially mowed on Cole Road West. Additional mowed tracks also appeared to be originating from a nearby home on Pleasant Run Road which abuts the meadow. Jay Kelly stated that he will visit the meadow and see what he can find out.

Jay Kelly asked for status on updated mowing protocols. John Klotz stated that he will contact Public Works Director, Scott Jesseman, to discuss it.

Chair Huelsebusch stated that he has been contacted by the Casey family in reference to mowing trails on the Fitzgerald property along Coddington Rd. Chair Huelsebusch stated that the Casey family is interested in possibly adopting the trail and working with the board to properly mow and maintain the trail and parking lot. Chair Huelsebusch also stated that Rocky Road Trail needs maintenance as well and suggested the board ask CERT to possibly adopt the trail.

- 2) **Trails Subcommittee:** Chris John stated that trail work is continuing although nothing formal has been scheduled. Chris stated that his work schedule at this time is not conducive to formally scheduling trail work sessions. Emanuel Bola stated that he will set up and schedule a Subcommittee meeting.
- 3) **Trailhead Gate Locks:** John Klotz stated that Public Works installed padlocks on the trailhead gates located on Woodschurch Road and at Pickell Park.
- 4) **ATV Usage on Trails:** Chris John questioned why a gate and lock have not been installed at Vislocky property and addressed ATV usage on the property as well. Jonathan Heller stated that if Chris creates a list of issues concerning this property, he will speak with the Township Committee. Jonathan Heller also stated that an article was published in the Readington News concerning ATV usage on trails. Chair Huelsebusch asked Chris John and John Klotz to coordinate a meeting with Emanuel Bola.
- 5) **Signage:** Anne Owens asked for the status on “NO ATV” signage for trails. Discussion deferred until next month.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: No comments

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Emanuel Bola stated that due to relaxed COVID regulations, he is looking forward to more open space walks with the general public. Neil Hendrickson mentioned that spotted lantern fly nymphs are currently on trees, however, they are not fatal, only a nuisance. John Klotz stated that he is anticipating in person meetings again and is hopeful the municipal building

will be open to the public soon. Julia Allen stated that she is thankful for the volunteers who will be leading walks with students on the Lachenmayr trail. Sandra Madon stated that she has communicated with Girl Scout leaders for possible future activities. Jonathan Heller mentioned that the Deer Management program will be discussed at the June 7th Township Committee meeting.

ADJOURN: Mario Orlandi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emanuel Bola, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter