

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2023

PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Frank Lesdik

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:** John Klotz stated that the March open space hike and a new map and description of the Whitehouse Greenway trail have been posted to the Township website. John also stated that he posted updated links for existing trails and the volunteer trail session schedule. After discussion on Daniel’s Law, John Klotz made a motion to request the Township speed up the redaction process for previous meeting minutes, seconded by Julia Allen, all approved. John stated that board members often refer to previous meeting minutes as reference for current topics that will be discussed at future meetings.

- 2) **Event Updates / Dart’s Mills:** Chair Huelsebusch updated the board on the status and current condition of the Dart’s Mills building. Chair Huelsebusch stated that Raritan Headwaters is a potential tenant looking to occupy the building starting in July. A stream clean-up at the mill location is planned for Sat., March 25 which will include Scout troops, WaterWatch members and Open Space members.

- 3) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the March 19th walk was posted on the website and will be held on Lt. Dale Haver Whitehouse Greenway.
- 4) **Trails:** deferred until March.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Klotz made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Julia Allen, all approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the Saums property closing was held on Feb. 28. Julia Allen stated that a right-of-way access to the open space needs to be included in the deed for the property. Chair Huelsebusch also stated that Ryan Dunn and Clay Mason are looking into potential contacts for future farm preservation opportunities.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the Deer Path parcel will soon have a closing date.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** deferred until March.
- 4) **WaterWatch Updates:** deferred until March.
- 5) **Township Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that he will be meeting with Branchburg Township soon to discuss Readington's open space and offer suggestions in the process of preserving land.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen stated that at the recent trails meeting John Klotz created a priority list for updating and repairing the kiosks. Anne stated that a list of trails will be submitted to Public Works for brush hog clearing. Anne also reported on a recent incident with a dog off leash on the trails. Anne stated that she will submit an article to The Readington News concerning safety and horses on the trails. The next trail meeting will be held on Mar. 28.

John Klotz stated that Public Works ordered five (5) replacement kiosks which will be installed this Spring at various trailheads (to be determined).

- 2) **Stewardship:** The Board discussed tree planting at Summer Road Park. Julia Allen made a motion to request the Township Committee include \$5,000 in the upcoming budget plan for tree planting at Summer Road Park, seconded by John Klotz, all approved. Tree species to be determined.

- 3) **Volunteer Sessions:** The Board discussed trails that will be worked on during March and April sessions. John Klotz stated that he will post the session information on the Township website.

NEW BUSINESS: John Klotz discussed past protocol/process for Scout projects and the need to firm up the present procedure. The Board will discuss this further at the March meeting when more members are present.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Frank Lesdik discussed with the board the Cushetunk Trail and the burial grounds located near the trail.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: no comments

ADJOURN: Emanuel Bola made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Julia Allen, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter