

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

March 5, 2025

Present:

MEMBER	JAN	FEB 4th	MAR 5th	APR 2nd	MAY 7th	JUN 4th	AUG 6th	SEP 4th	OCT 1st	NOV 5th
Juergen Huelsebusch, Chair		X	X							
Anne Owen, Vice Chair		X	X							
Emanuel Bola		X	X							
Julia Allen		X	X							
Thomas Davitt		X	X							
Christopher John		X	X							
Adam Mueller		X								
Lisa Routel		X	X							
Brian Skowronek		X	X							
Ryan Dunn, 1 st Alternate		---	N/A							
David Owen, 2nd Alternate		X	X							

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lauren Huelsebusch, Lisa McDonald, Joana McDonald, John Klotz, and Paul Grassie

A. Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

B. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS:

1. There was land acquisition in January on Mountain Road.
2. Trails subcommittee will be meeting on March 16th at Round Mountain. Pleasant Run will be in April, Lazy Brook in May and Cole Road in June. The leadership and logistics were discussed.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Manny Bola moved to approve February 4, 2025 minutes, and the motion was seconded by Lisa Routel and unanimously adopted.

D. CORRESPONDENCE: The Board has corresponded with both Ag and Green Acres. Reports were done. In January, an update to the Ag List of preserved properties was made. For Green Acres, the application was finished a few weeks ago and submitted. We applied for additional funding with targeted properties.

E. REPORTS:

Kestrel Box Update: Lisa Routel spoke about the Kestrel Recovery Project. With the help of volunteers, the goal was set to build and install 55 boxes for Kestrels over the next five years, averaging about 10 per year. The boxes will be monitored, and our goal is to engage different organizations and volunteer groups in this project. Landowner engagement was another important element of this project. A pilot program was started last year where girl scout boxes at Summer Road Greenway were installed. Placement focus at this time is the southern part of Readington with the intent to grow to central and northern portions as well. Long term initiatives include studying the impact of the boxes such as recapture rate. Birds will be banded in order to monitor/track the birds. For the nest box monitoring, it will be a process, and volunteers will attach a camera to a GoPro Pole to monitor the boxes for eggs/chicks. Existing locations and potential location sites of these boxes were discussed. Another focus is to determine their recapture rate.

F. REGULAR REPORTS:

- 1) **Open Space Preservation:** There are two potential parcels earmarked for acquisition. We are going to the County on the 24th for potential funding.
- 2) **Agricultural Land Advisory Committee Update:** New rules for appraisal have been defined by SADC. A briefing to the municipalities will be on the 24th or 25th. They go public in April to landowners.
- 3) **NJ DEP/Green Acres Update:** No update.
- 4) **Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee:** There are two potentially. We are hoping to have one to two applications for the March 24, 2025 meeting.
- 5) **Environmental Commission Updates:** No update.
- 6) **Environmental Partner Update:** There is a potential transfer to The State Wildlife Management area.
- 7) **Readington Township Updates:** No update.

G: OLD AND ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. OSAB Trails Subcommittee Updates: Trails subcommittee is well manned. The focus is on tree planting. Goals will be tree selection, tree planting, tree care such as creating processes to improve mortality rates. All will be during the planting season. Potential sites/projects were discussed as well as logistics such as volunteer groups. Coordinating with DPW, volunteers and finding the type of trees are potential areas of focus for this subcommittee. An equestrian trail was discussed as well as a potential location.
2. OSAB Stewardship Updates: Potential land sites for purchase were discussed. Including the AG/LAND Committee to the discussion was suggested.
3. OSAB Subcommittee Updates: Sub trail Committee: Trails information was provided and the cleaning progress on each was discussed. A list of trees that were down will be provided to the DPW to help with removal at the various trails.
4. OSAB Volunteer Calendar/Work Sessions: An update on Spring cleanup was provided as well as sites and dates. Well testing stats were discussed from the Raritan Headwaters presentation that was done. The annual tree seedling giveaway was discussed.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

J. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

ADJOURNMENT: Juergen Huelsebusch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Manny Bola, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Russo
Advisory Board Secretary