

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

April 2, 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	X						
Anne Owen, Vice Chair		X	X	X						
Emanuel Bola		X	X	X						
Julia Allen		X	X	X						
Thomas Davitt		X	X	X						
Christopher John		X	X	X						
Adam Mueller		X		X						
Lisa Routel		X	X	X						
Brian Skowronek		X	X	X						
Ryan Dunn, 1 st Alternate		---	N/A	---						
David Owen, 2nd Alternate		X	X	X						

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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. Upcoming hikes and trail dates were discussed as well as when the sapling giveaway will take place.
2. Grant applications for parks were discussed.
3. The SADC Annual Report and highlights summary was shared.

C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Lisa Routel moved to approve March 5, 2025 minutes, and the motion was seconded by Christopher John and unanimously adopted.

D. CORRESPONDENCE:

E. REPORTS:

Wildlife Management Report: The 2024/2025 Deer Program: Jason Giroud gave an overview of this program and also discussed how successful this program was this year. Opportunities to expand this program were discussed.

Girl Scout Troop Volunteer Opportunities: Troop 80252 attended the meeting hoping to find a volunteer opportunity for their Silver Award Project. Potential opportunities were discussed and Duck boxes and tree planting were a good fit.

F. REGULAR REPORTS:

- 1) **Open Space Preservation:** There are currently three land opportunities in process. There is one Agricultural opportunity in process.
- 2) **Agricultural Land Advisory Committee Update:** New rules for appraisal have been defined by SADC. The new appraisal by SADC was discussed and how beneficial it will be for landowners. Alerting the public should be a focus.
- 3) **NJ DEP/Green Acres Update:** Green acres match money has been extended. It is a time consuming process to be approved.
- 4) **Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee:** The next meeting is Tuesday, May 27th. There will be one or possibly two applications at that meeting.
- 5) **Environmental Commission Updates:** No update.
- 6) **Environmental Partner Update:** No update.
- 7) **Readington Township Updates:** Seedling giveaway will take place April 19th. It will be done by the DPW and staging will be in Pickell Park. The goal is to avoid a backup on 523 and emphasis is on safety. Trees are color coded; seven different species of trees will be distributed, 1300 total will be given to the public. The process is streamlined and there is no choice of trees this year. The seedlings will be given with slips regarding care/type of tree that is received.

G: OLD AND ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. OSAB Trails Subcommittee Updates: David and Anne put up new signage; informational bat signs at Dobozyński and Cushetunk Nature preserve by the bat houses. Additional signage was placed at Cushetunk Nature preserve by the water to not walk on the observatory boardwalk. Dog waste signs were also placed at Holland Brook headwater/Dreahook road. Signage at Cole Road West gate was placed to alert people to please close the gate. DPW is enlarging Bouman Stickney parking lot on Route 629. This is an ongoing project. Pleasant Run Greenway – installing a culvert which is an ongoing project. Most trails are in good condition and muddy in the usual places. ATVs are back coming in from Edgewood Road and Hillcrest/Morningside and are a problem. A tree was cut by Readington Twp on Lachenmayr Trail. Mountain Road clean-up has been done. The DPW will have the trailhead and parking area graveled/set up in the next few weeks. May 22nd will be a volunteer planting of smaller trees. A Kestrel workshop with Girl Scouts who built the boxes will take place on April 19th. We will continue monitoring and it is an ongoing project. Wood duck boxes are in the works.
2. OSAB Stewardship Updates: Afforestation and help with planting is a collaborative effort with Robert Becker of the Environmental Commission. We will be volunteering/planting on April 18th.
3. Readington was awarded a reforestation grant. As part of that, a 20 acre, 8 ft deer fence was installed. Larger trees will be installed by the DPW that will be strategically placed. Volunteers will be planting smaller trees. A 3000 gallon water tank will be installed.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Jason from Wildlife gave a presentation on the deer program.

Girl Scout troop 80252 leader, Tina Martoccia, Nova Ahrens, Jade DiCriscio and two girl scouts were present. This troop is trying to obtain their Gold Award and part of that is 50 service hours in something that is sustainable.

J. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Huelsebusch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lisa Routel, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Russo
Advisory Board Secretary