

**Readington Township WaterWatch Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2021

PRESENT (via webinar):

MEMBER	JAN 28	FEB 16	MAR 16	APR 20	MAY 18	JUN 15	JUL 20	AUG 17	SEP 21	OCT 19	NOV 16
Mario Orlandi, Chair	X										
Steve Foster	X										
Robert Becker	X										
Rene Rao	X										
Ago Pietrangelo	X										
David Owen	X										
Trish McGuire	X										
Jonathan Heller 1 st Alternate	X										
Susan Masinda 2 nd Alternate	X										

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Marlene Orlandi, Bob Schoenfeld, Jerry Cook

Member Orlandi called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act had been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

ATTENDANCE TAKEN

Attendance was taken noting Committee Members, Alternates and members of public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Orlandi noted that since this was the first official meeting of the Committee, there were no minutes from previous meetings to approve.

HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES:

- 1) **New Members:** Member Orlandi noted that two new members had been approved by the Township Committee – Trish McGuire (Member) and Jonathan Heller (Alternate Member).

- 2) **Election of Committee Chair:** Following a discussion of Committee Chairmanship, Mario Orlandi was nominated as Chair, voted upon, and approved. [Motion: Robert Becker, Second: Steve Foster].
- 3) **Meeting Dates:** Chair noted that the originally planned regular meeting date of “the 3rd Thursday of each month” was not approved because of a conflict with the Township Board of Adjustment. An alternative date of “the 3rd Tuesday of each month” was suggested, voted upon, and approved. [Motion: Robert Becker, Second: Steve Foster]
- 4) **Discussion of OPRA and OPMA Access to Emails and Text:** Chair reviewed the OPRA and OPMA regulations regarding email and text communications that had implications for the Committee going forward. Discussion followed.
- 5) **Drop Box:** Robert Becker noted that he has initiated a DropBox for RWW to serve as a holding and storage area for documents (especially larger ones) of relevance to the Committee. He has also offered to serve as our Coordinator for this resource. All Members were urged to learn how to use DropBox since the Committee plans to use it extensively for document access. Robert Becker also offered to provide an overview and tutorial covering DropBox use in the future. He asked that member contact information be sent to him and Chair offered to gather this on his behalf.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Raritan Headwaters Collaboration:** Trish McGuire (who is currently RHA’s *Volunteer and Outreach Program Manager*) reviewed the Committees significant and ongoing collaboration with this important local organization. Featured were upcoming plans to re-schedule the Annual Stream Clean-up in which Readington has participated for April 2021 (in collaboration with RHA).
- 2) **Stream Report -- Rockaway Creek:** Susan Masinda, who has had a long and ongoing commitment to one of our smaller streams (Rockaway Creek) provided an update on recent efforts to monitor water conditions and improve water flow (in collaboration with RHA). This will hopefully serve as a model (to be adopted by other Committee members) for small stream stewardship across the Township.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) **Framework for Organizing Key Theme Issues:** Chair noted that the Committee needs to focus on a variety of themes giving adequate attention to each while avoiding omitting any. The themes include (though are not limited to):
 - a. Public Relations

- b. Septic Systems
- c. Herbicides, Pesticides, Fertilizers: Effects of Chemicals on Water Supply
- d. Annual Stream Clean-up (with RHA)
- e. Recreational Opportunities (fishing, kayaking, hiking, birding, etc.)
- f. Sustainable Jersey
- g. Small Stream Stewardship
- h. Schools & Community Projects
- i. Well Testing (with RHA)
- j. Volunteer Recruitment
- k. Open Space Trail Collaboration
- l. Environmental Ongoing Collaboration

Options for organizing these themes were discussed and one suggestion was to identify a monthly theme for each month. Pros and cons of this approach were discussed. Chair suggested that all members think about these themes and ways to address them and that the issue would be brought up again at the next regular meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- 1) Bob Schoenfeld suggested that clarification needed to be provided for the OPRA and OPMA regulations were discussed. Chair offered to locate written descriptions and make them available. Bob also asked about any Township insurance that covers volunteers during participation in Township sponsored events. Chair offered to look into this as well and report back to the Committee.
- 2) Jerry Cook noted the value of Susan Masinda's ongoing efforts (and efforts like hers to exercise stream stewardship) to the Township's clean water efforts. His sentiments were echoed by others.
- 3) Neil Hendrickson noted the importance of identifying "volunteer recruitment and volunteer appreciation) as key issues for the Committee. He added that Township Committees in the past had organized more events like "volunteer fairs" to do just that and suggested the Committee consider these as options.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

- 1) David Owen asked if any Committee Member had access to a map or maps covering our local streams and the South Branch watershed that flows through Readington. Chair noted that the New Jersey DEP has developed the next generation of *NJ-GeoWeb* on the ArcGIS Online platform and that this is a valuable resource that all members should become familiar with. Robert Becker offered that he is already familiar with it and offered to be a liaison for members to this resource.
- 2) Robert Becker reviewed the work done by RWW (mostly by Robert himself) in driving the development of a Storm Water Management ordinance for Readington. Due to these

efforts, the ordinance that the Township will embrace is tailored to the specific needs of our Community.

ADJOURN

- 1) Voted and approved. [Motion: David Owen; Second: Rene Rao]

Respectfully submitted,

Mario Orlandi