

Readington Township
WaterWatch Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2021

1) **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Orlandi called the meeting to order at 7:28 pm.

2) **ATTENDENCE TAKEN**

Chair Mario Orlandi (P)

Robert Becker (P)

Steven Foster (P)

Trish McGuire (P)

Agostino Pietrangelo (P)

Susan Masinda (P)

Rene Rao (P)

Jonathan Heller (P)

David Owen (P)

Members of the public were in attendance.

3) **GUEST SPEAKER INTRODUCTION**

Readington Township Middle School ECO Ambassadors Bronwyn Downey and Olivia Davis presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding trout, regenerative systems, nitrification cycle, and stewardship. Committee members expressed their enjoyment regarding the student's presentations.

4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Steve Foster moved and Robert Becker second, motion to approve the minutes for May 18, 2021, with the correction of changing a minor typo located in section 8. All unanimously who were at the May meeting approved.

HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES

Small Stream Stewardship Program:

Mario Orlandi did research and found an example to share with members.

5) **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

David Owen: RWW / OSAB Collaboration and News from the HC B of CC

No Update

Robert Becker: Sustainable Jersey - Water Issues and Gold Star Standard in Water

Robert states that they are getting close to planning for the next certification cycle. The Green Team is starting to develop. Robert discussed the release of the official Sustainable Jersey Gold Star Standard in Water. Robert states Readington Twp meets all the requirements, but the only thing that is needed is the Water Story. Robert then explained to members what it is and what is needed.

Susan Masinda brought up the Board of Health's discussion regarding creating an ordinance for a 3-year requirement for pumping septic systems. Robert Becker suggested it be less than 3 years. Committee members discussed future education for the community.

Steve Foster: Well-testing and Community Education Programs

Steve discussed ideas for providing more education and promoting well testing. Steve suggested creating packets to hand out during well testing in the Fall. Steve also recommended doing well testing in the Spring.

Susan Masinda: Small Stream Stewardship Program

Susan discussed the Small Stream Stewardship event which started at South Branch of the Rockaway stream. There were 9 volunteers involved. Susan and the volunteers observed the stream becoming worse as it continued downward and there were many fallen trees visible. Susan discussed other aspects of the event that took place.

Trish McGuire: Stream Clean-up and News from the Raritan Headwaters Association

Trish suggested getting an interactive page going, so results can be uploaded. Trish states there as an estimation of 736 water bottles collected over several months.

Ago Pietrangelo: Chemical Impacts on Our Water Supply

Ago discussed research studies he came across at the last meeting. Ago requested pamphlets from them to hand out at the next event. Ago shared a few graphics to the committee members during the meeting and discussed communicating efforts along with putting information online.

Neil Hendrickson mentioned making a Facebook page for Environmental Commission, Water Watch Advisory Committee and Open Space Advisory Board, but it will need to be independent of the Township.

David Owen suggested to ask Readington Township Middle School's computer science class to help with the Facebook page or see if there is an Eagle Scout willing to assist.

Rene Rao and Marlene Orlandi: Community Programs and Schools Programs

Rene will be sending the document to members that was discussed at the last meeting. Rene also discussed the progress with the native garden.

Jonathan Heller: Stream Testing and News from the Township Committee

Jonathan discussed stream testing that will be coming up which will take place at 5 different sites.

6) ONGOING & NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming RHA Stream Monitoring in June and July.

Adding monitoring sites to the RHA annual list of more than 50 sites.

Proposed Cemetery Protest:

The Township Planning Board meeting is rescheduled for July 12th, 2021.

Hionis Agricultural Development Project: Block 20, Lot 1

Hionis was made aware that they need Zoning and Cite Plan approval.

Sustainable Jersey: Water Story - The Building Block for the Newest Gold Star Standard in Water.

Holland Brook Stream Restoration Project:

Landowner project is moving forward in collaboration with Readington Township; the latest step was submission of a disturbance report listing all property owners and public utilities potential affected by the project; project estimated start date: Fall 2021

Prescott Brook Stream Restoration Project:

Exploratory discussions are moving forward with a landowner and with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program for farm infrastructure projects through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP); funding is available for small stream restoration when the stream adjoins farmland – the Prescott runs through a local naturalized tulip farm.

7) GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public inquired about getting involved in Stream Testing.

8) GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Robert Becker discussed the progress of the Storm Water Ordinance and updating the technical parts.

Steve Foster discussed the progress of the 319H Project.

9) ADJOURN

Robert Becker moved Rene Rao second, motion to adjourn at 9:04 pm. The next scheduled WaterWatch Advisory meeting will be held on July 20th at 7:00pm.