

Readington Township Waterwatch Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2024

OPEN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Orlandi at 7:01 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

Members in Attendance:

Mario Orlandi – Chair
David Owen
Rene Rao
Steve Foster
Jonathan Heller
Jerry Cook

Member Absent:

Richard Geissler
Lauren Huelsebusch
Andrew Saad
Tatianna Halinka
Marlene Orlandi

In Attendance:

Arron Henderson
Cathleen Doroty
Doug Vorlocker
Willow Ebel-infante – Intern for the environmental stewardship program at RVCC and working towards a biology associates degree.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made to approve the April minutes by Rene Rao, seconded by Steve Foster, and carried by all.

Committee Member Updates:

Mr. Foster - Provided updates from the EC on Resiliency and the Water Gold Star. WGS is back up for renewal February of 2025. The Water Watch Advisory Committee will take the lead on this. Mario advised the members to review the water story and take note of the goals listed at the end. The members briefly discussed the geese problem at Lake Wolbegone.

David Owen – The stream clean-up was completed at all three sites. Rockafellows Mill by the dam needs to be looked at. Street cleanup was suggested to be considered since the trash on the streets gets washed into the streams. Mario said he spoke with Ron Christy about summer being a good time for community clean up. All trails are open. DPW and RTA have done a great job. Commissioners are still adamant that an increase of tractor trailer sizes will not be allowed in NJ. David emphasized the lack of communication about the Chambers brook project stating he has not seen or heard anything about it. The township committee voted on and

approved the new community magazine. An example has been posted. David is working on the Memorial Day parade.

Ms. Rao – The May post was sent to Adam, Juergen and JJ. The topic was water saver. A reminder was sent today. Members discussed different forms of communication to utilize and who to contact for each. Juergen suggested a post on fish migration. Members discussed fish migration day originated, celebrated day, and the connection of the topic to our rivers and dams. Rene has reserved a table for water watch the summer spectacular on June 16th. Members discussed what activities, informational materials, and posters etc. will be at the table. Members agreed to cancel the June meeting due to the scheduling conflict. Jonathan Heller, as Board of Health liaison, mentioned that the BOH has discussed ways to get residents to report pumping of their septic. Mario suggested a database that automates messages to residents as a reminder. Steve suggested a special price offer. Jonathan asked BOH members to investigate what other municipalities have done and report back.

Mr. Heller – Jonathan said DEP is not yet engage on the e coli issue at rockaway creek and have asked for more testing to be done. Lake Kusetunk dam needs repairs and will be addressed by the TC. A brief discussion took place about the deer enclosure at Staton. Mr. Daly's Viking Visionary Projects, discussed doing a presentation with RHA and possible logistics to present last years data. the municipal courtroom and bowman Stickney were discussed as possible locations.

Mr. Orlandi – The idea was suggested that the science teachers use the trails for an outdoor classroom. Mario and the teachers are looking into who would be responsible carrying out this idea. Steve gave examples of other municipalities who do this and suggested reaching out to them for information. Kathleen discussed curriculum requirements and made suggestions. Raritan Habitat for Humanity operates completely with volunteers. A habitat for humanity project will be built in Whitehouse Station. Find out what would be involved and how to volunteers.

New Business/Other Business:

Mario further discussed the Chambers brook tree planting project. This was an RHA grant and if we wanted to use this model for other streams, we can investigate that. Rene passed around photos of the event. The members discussed ways to thank the homeowner who gave egress on his property to access the cleanup site. Members discussed the RHA water testing and DEP training. Mario and Jonathan will circulate more information as it is received. Members discussed additional tree projects and riparian buffer projects were discussed. A visit to report what is going on at the property will be conducted to document the current status.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jonathan Heller, seconded by Rene Rao, and carried by all. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

*Waterwatch Advisory Committee Meeting, continued
May 21, 2024*

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Monaghan
Advisory Boards Secretary