

**Readington Township Waterwatch Advisory Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16, 2024**

**OPEN MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Orlandi at 7:06 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  
Steve Foster  
Jonathan Heller  
Lauren Huelsebusch  
Marlene Orlandi  
Tatianna Hlinka  
Jerry Cook

**Member Absent:**

Rene Rao  
Richard Geissler  
Andrew Saad

**In Attendance:**

Aaron Henderson  
Cathleen Doherty  
Willow Ebel-Infante  
Juergen Huelsebusch

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made to approve the May minutes by Jonathan Heller, seconded by David Owens, and carried by all.

**Committee Member Updates:**

David Owen – There are no updates from the trails committee. Hunterdon County Commissioners have opened an all-inclusive playground at Deer Path. They have received a 100-million-dollar approval to open a second one at South County Park. 75% comes from the Jake's Law Green Acres fund and the county funds the other 25%. A previous parking lot will be installed. The RHA report discussed and reviewed the grades of all streams. Steve noted on Pleasant Run, significant work was done to the buffalo farm to take water to very large swales to reduce flooding and quality of the water Mario discussed having RHA present the data to the public.

Ms. Orlandi – Discussed integrating the Lachenmyer Trail into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. It would be a walk in the woods in the fall and spring covering earth science and molecular science in the spring. Doug Vornlocker is the contracted land steward who has agreed to tie the trail to the curriculum and set up sights along the path and work with the teachers. Ms. Huelsebusch said Doug is interested in creating the stations on the trail and establishing a program along with the two teachers

involved. Cathleen Doroty suggested that the trails be better mapped and marked. Temporary and long-term trail marking suggestions were discussed.

Mr. Foster – Provided an update from the EC. The work on the Green Committee and Sustainability Committee is moving forward. 2025 is the recertification year for the gold certificate for water. The EC is currently building the documentation for that and seeing if any changes will be anticipated. The EC asked if we have a report from the stream clean up to be included in the Sustainable NJ documentation. David said he has not yet received a report but will follow up.

Mr. Heller – No update.

Ms. Hlinka – Discussed her involvement with the ARC GIS story maps and is looking for input from the Waterwatch Committee to engage residents through the creation of a story map. She asked to interview the committee members to discuss the current health of the streams, the ways education and policy are incorporated into making the streams healthier and gather data. The target audience is not students, this would be submitted to National Geographic's contest for the general public. The project is due August 30<sup>th</sup>. Members discussed what a story map is and what components are a part of it as well as suggestions of what to include.

Mr. Cook – Mentions rivers are inundated with swimmers and that the rivers are filthy again and will cause a problem for our rivers. Conversations occurred on locations throughout town and solutions.

Mr. Orlandi – Discussed the substantial tree planting in April/May, the stream clean up done in May with RHA, the Summer Spectacular event, and stream monitoring all of June. Mario put together draft posts on stream clean up and stream monitoring. Mario reviewed the streams report results and encouraged members to create more awareness to have residents participate in events to improve the grades. Social media posts, the website, email blasts, and other outreach methods to reach more residents and people were discussed. Members discussed and provided input on the draft posts and what to do with them.

### **New Business/Other Business:**

Juergen Huelsebusch provided an update from the TC on the South Branch projects. Darts Mills feasibility study update to the public in September. The land acquisitions last year on both sides of Rockafellows Mills, started the process to transfer the land to NJ Fish and Wildlife.

Steve thanked Rene Rao for all her contributions and engagement of the community at the Summer Spectacular.

### **Public Comment:**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jonathan Heller, seconded by Marlena Orlandi, and carried by all. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

*Waterwatch Advisory Committee Meeting, continued  
July 16, 2024*

Respectfully submitted,  
Danielle Monaghan  
Advisory Boards Secretary