

Readington Township Waterwatch Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024

OPEN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Orlandi at 7:00 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
Marlene Orlandi
Rene Rao
Jonathan Heller
Lauren Huelsebusch

In Attendance:

Juergen Huelsebusch, Township Liaison
Robert Colburn, Board of Health Chair
Lisa Routel, Recreation Committee
Cathleen Doherty
Jerry Cook

Member Absent:

Richard Geissler
Andrew Saad

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Steve Foster to approve the August 20, 2024, minutes as written, seconded by Marlene Orlandi.

Committee Member Updates:

Jonathan Heller – No update.

David Owen – The Stream Clean Up report from RHA has been corrected and published. All trails are open. There is a new trail, Dale Havers Greenway. About 30 people walked the trail with the OSAB last Sunday. Members bring clippers with them during the walks and clearing/clipping while they hike to assist with clearing the trails. The Hunterdon County Commissioners have a million dollar grant that will be distributed amongst the 26 municipalities. Readington has been awarded \$65,000 for installation of pedestrian activated LED crosswalks at 5 key locations on main street. Acceptance of this grant was approved by the Township Committee. A traffic meeting will take place next week to discuss logistics and details.

Ms. Huelsebusch – The Dale Haver Greenway is another loop off the original trail. It includes the 6 acres piece of land acquired over the summer and the other side has 20 acres of land locked space never before used. The trail is still in the process of being marked. Mr. Huelsebusch discussed the area and the cleanup of trails. Members discussed ADA compliance of trails.

Ms. Orlandi – Marlene discussed the 4th grade trail walk. There will be a Fall Walk and a Spring Walk. The dates are to be determined. There will be 4 stations for the students to stop. Doug Vornlocker discussed the trail stations in further detail. The stations will be the detention basin, the forested area, the far field, and the Holland Brook. Photos and scripts have been provided to the teachers. They are exploring options to have at least 2 RVCC students attend the walks. Ms. Orlandi suggested notifying neighbors of the event as a courtesy.

Mr. Foster – The Environmental Commission will participate in the Green Fair in Clinton on September 28th. RHA will also have a table at the fair.

Ms. Rao – Well Testing will be from October 12th to the 23rd. Waterwatch and RHA will be at the Readington Municipal Building 10/12 from 9 AM to 12 PM for kit sales and pre-orders. 10/15 from 7-10 AM and accepting sample returns until 11 AM; 10/22 from 7-10 AM and accepting sample returns until 11 AM; 10/23 from 7 AM to 11 AM for sample returns only. Waterwatch and RHA will be at the Three Bridges Fire Co. on 10/16 from 7 AM to 10 AM and accepting sample returns until 11 AM. The flyer will be posted on the website, Facebook page, lobby TV, and email ListSrv. A volunteer sign up page is available to assist with test kit sales and returns. Posters were put up on The Rail's bulletin board and the library. Small inground signs have been put up at Summer Road Park and Hillcrest Park. Large Signs will be placed at the municipal building and the Three Bridges Library. Marlena will send the flyer and information to go out in the school's backpack mail. Well Testing will also be advertised at the Museums sign and members will coordinate with OEM to use the digital sign. Members discussed residents' reactions to septic information being distributed and how to change that reaction. Mr. Colburn said that he is working on putting together septic information for new homeowners.

Mr. Heller – Mr. Heller informed the members of the Environmental Commissions idea to send a letter the addresses listed on the DEP's list and the intent to notify the homeowners of the known issues and encourage them to test. Members discussed possibly putting well testing lawn signs in those neighborhoods. Mr. Colburn suggested to do the well testing event more than once a year.

Mr. Huelsebusch – The Township Committee met today with DEP, NJ Fish and Wildlife, NOAH, and RHA for a monthly update about Rockafellows Mills. He informed everyone that the TC has introduced the transfer of Rockafellow Mills to the State and a public hearing will be held 10/21. A 5-year plan is in the process of being created and will also include surrounding municipalities. Juergen discussed how land acquisition goes hand in hand with improving the quality of streams and protecting the watersheds. Members discussed water sites such as Pleasant Run and Lake Cushatunk.

New Business/Other Business:

None.

Public Comment:

Robert Colburn stated that Susan Masinda attended the Board of Health meeting last month and presented her findings on the E. coli situation in Cushatunk Lake. He suggested reaching out to Lebanon Township. Members discussed previous issues

*Waterwatch Advisory Committee Meeting, continued
September 17, 2024*

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rene Rao seconded by Lauren Huelsebusch and carried by all. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Monaghan
Advisory Boards Secretary