

**Readington Township  
Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2020**

**OPEN MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson 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**

Neil Hendrickson, Chair  
Robert Becker  
Jerry Cook  
Jonathan Heller  
Todd Terricone  
Steve Foster

**Members Absent**

Susan Masinda  
Jeff Charney

**Minutes**

Mr. Foster moved, and Mr. Heller seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for July 7, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Foster left the meeting at 7:10 pm.

**LOI/Freshwater Wetlands**

It was mentioned that Ms. Masinda has converted her pond back to a stream

**AOC (Areas of Concern)**

Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification NJDEP Case # 20-07-22-0925 – 15 Clark Lane – Oil Heating #2 Underground Storage Tank-Noted  
No Further Action - #2 Heating Underground Storage Tank – NJDEP Case # 20-04-13-11-006-02 – 384 Route 22, Block 17, Lot 9-Noted

**Correspondence**

Copy of NJDEP TWA Application, Block 4, Lots %1 & 52 – Readington Commons II, LLC. It was questioned if this project has the sewer capacity required and it does. It has received preliminary approval from the Planning Board.

**New Business**

**Grants Process**

Any grant applications will need to be sent to the secretary of the environmental commission. Applications will be forwarded to Darlene Mitchell in the Administration office as well as to the Township Administrator. This will aid in the tracking of any Grants monies that may be awarded to the township.

**New Environmental Commission Secretary**

Carol Radziewicz will be taking over for Ann Marie Lehberger as secretary of the Environmental Commission. The Environmental Commission expressed their appreciation for the hard work provided by Ann Marie Lehberger.

## **Other Business**

### **Subcommittee Updates**

#### ***Tree Subcommittee***

##### **Tree Permit Update**

Mr. Fox joined the meeting to report that his applicant for a tree removal permit entertained the suggestions made regarding ways to reduce the number of trees needing to be removed. They will be moving ahead with the revised plan.

##### **Reporting of Dead Ash Trees**

Further discussion regarding a protocol for reporting dead ash trees is needed. The zoning official has informed that it is incumbent upon the homeowner to determine if the tree is on their property. The chair communicated what other municipalities and counties are doing to address this same issue. Discussions with DPW and other township officials will be needed to put together a plan to address township property with trees that need to be removed. A recommendation was made to investigate the possibility of identifying a tree company that may be able to offer reduced pricing for residents. The Tree Subcommittee will convene a meeting to prepare recommendations to the Township Committee.

#### ***Wildlife Subcommittee***

##### **Deer Management**

At the Township Committee meeting held on August 3, 2020, the properties were awarded to the group bidders based the public bid documents. The program for individual permits will be released and out for bid in the next few days. Because Green Acres and County funds were used, the township is required to open up these properties to all state residents and not limit it to just Readington Township residents. An additional 6-8 properties were added with the hope that more individuals will apply for these permits.

#### ***Streams & Groundwater Subcommittee***

##### **Stream Quality**

There was a call with Raritan Headwaters where the use of salt in the winter and the affects on stream quality was discussed. Raritan Headwaters was very clear in that one of the negatives facing the township with regard to stream quality is the use of salt in the winter. It was mentioned that brining the roads is better than salt. The county roads are brined rather than salted. A conversation with the head of DPW occurred several years ago relating to using brine instead of salt. DPW informed that there would need to be a significant capital investment in order to purchase the specific spreaders needed for brine. The subcommittee will work to identify alternatives to using salt.

## **Updates on other Items**

### **Bowman Stickney Property**

It was noticed that signs were put up to notify residents that spraying was being done. The product being used was the equivalent of Roundup. The company, Williams Forestry Company, was hired to spray for invasive plants along the pipeline which could not be controlled by mowing. These areas tended to be along streams. Williams Forestry Company has been doing this spraying since 2016 in the spring and fall. The current contract will end in 2021. The township does have the option to opt out of the spraying. Normally the signs posted are removed within 1 week. In this instance, the signs that are being seen were accidentally left up. A discussion on the efficacy and potential negatives were discussed. The Environmental Commission will compose a letter to Williams Forestry Company, with a copy sent to the Township Committee, to indicate that the township will continue the spraying as outlined in the contract.

### **Site Plan Review and Comment**

#### ***PSE&G – Tower Replacement Project***

The application for this project is scheduled to appear before a special meeting of the Board of Adjustment on Thursday, August 6, 2020. Mr. Orlandi provided a detailed analysis of the project documentation. Most of what was provided for this project was boilerplate. The project is to replace eleven (11) power transmission towers that were put in in the 1920s. These Y-shaped poles will be replaced with monopoles. It was noticed that there was not a great deal of detail provided in how some things were going to be accomplished, i.e. relocating the eagles' nests. Mr. Orlandi suggested that Environmental Commission members and concerned citizens meet with project representatives to discuss areas of concern so that they could provide suggestions and possibly direction in ways that will protect the Township streams, animal and plant environment during this project. Some of these areas of concern are listed below:

- Removal of the Eagle's Nest.
- Protection of the streams to ensure that fish, macroinvertebrates, and water plants will be unharmed by the project as well as shore and riparian plant life.
- Restoration of the disturbed areas within the stream corridors specifically regarding stream biota and riparian plantings.
- Protection of the streambeds.

### **Grants Update**

Mr. Becker attended a Zoom meeting on the New Jersey Renewable Government Energy Aggregation (R-GEA) program. It allows a municipality, or groups of municipalities, to negotiate, on behalf of their residents, supplied electric contracts with renewable energy companies. There are approximately five (5) other communities in New Jersey that have done this. Mr. Becker asked the Environmental Commission for their support in further analysis of this activity and report back to the Environmental Commission the benefits of Readington Township, either alone or with other municipalities, in proceeding with upping the renewable portion of renewable energy sources at a lower price than what is currently being paid today. Members expressed their excitement at learning more about this.

Mr. Becker informed that Mr. Huelsebusch has requested that Mr. Becker to expand the Grants list to encompass all the grants that the Township is engaged in.

The following is the most updated Grants spreadsheet:

Date	Title	Objective	\$	\$ Cost	Due Date	Owner	Status
11/29/2019	Electric Vehicle Charging Station	two port changing stationb	\$6,000		Open	Mekovetz	Awarded
11/29/2019	ANJEC	Pollinator Garden	\$1,000		5/5/2019	Kelly	Awarded
11/29/2019	Roots for Rivers	Tree planting in rerparian buffer Holland Brook 523	\$3,750	in kind	12/13/2019	Hendrickson	Awarded
12/13/2019	Sustainable Jersey	Inventory of Township Meadows, Flora and Fauna Content	\$10,000		2/14/2020	Becker	Awarded
1/3/2020	Roots for Rivers	Tree planting in rerparian buffer Bloy Farm 319H	\$7,123		12/13/2019	Szczepanski	Awarded
1/1/2018	319(h) Nonpoint Pollution Control	Implement key elements of the 2008 Watershed Protection Plan: Holland Brook School, Bloy Farm, Hillcrest Park	\$300,000		1/1/2018	Foster	Awarded
1/3/2020	Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive	\$4000 toward electric vehicle purchase and \$1500 dual port level 2 station	as indicated		7/31/2020	Becker	submitted
6/23/2020	Water Shed Inst. Small Grant Cycle	Water Quality Science and Education, Stormwater Policy, Green Infrastructure, and Climate Change Resiliency.	\$8,500		LOI 7/31/2020		Reviewing
11/29/2019	Community Forestry Stewardship	Any aspect of community tree program	\$10000 - 20000	in kind	5/29/2020		not released
7/17/2020	Landscape Scale Restoration, National Forest Service	Restoration of forests, public and private resources	no limit	in kind	?	Hendrickson	Reviewing
7/18/2020	Sustainable Jersey, Improving Public Communication and Engagement	Building community support for programs and activities.	Consultant led Planning	none	8/9/2020	Becker	In process

7/18/2020	William Porter Community Tree Project, NJ Tree Federation	Benefit community tree resource and education	\$2,500	in kind	?	Hendrickson	Reviewing
7/31/2020	TA-Set-Aside NJDOT	Surface transportation related projects	no limit	none	11/24/2020	Becker	Reviewing
5/26/2020	County Open Space Acquisition Grant	Open space property acquisition, Fitzgerald 31 acres	\$155,000	50%	5/26/2020	Huelsebusch	In process
7/1/2020	Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan Grant	Create farmland preservatin plan	\$20,000	50%	7/1/2020	Doyle	Awarded

**Adjournment**

It was the consensus of the committee members to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Radziewicz, Secretary to the Environmental Commission