

**Readington Township  
Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 2, 2021**

**OPEN MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson at 7:05 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  
Steve Foster  
Susan Masinda  
Todd Terricone  
Jeff Charney

**Members Absent**

Jonathan Heller  
Mario Orlandi

**Minutes**

Mr. Cook moved, and Mr. Foster seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for January 5, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

**LOI/Freshwater Wetlands**

1. **Eastern States Environmental Associates - 20 Tannery Road, B. 39, L. 53 - LOI -**  
*This property is near a wetland and they are asking for a letter of interpretation. The property does have trees and is sloped. There is a stream course in close proximity.*

**AOC (Areas of Concern)**

None

**Correspondence**

1. **Free LED Light Bulbs**  
This correspondence was provided to the Housing and Social Services Director as this was directed to low to moderate income communities. The idea was raised that this offers an opportunity to work with them to raise awareness of the new technology in these light bulbs not just to the low to moderate income communities but to all residents. Mr. Foster volunteered to explore this and put something together for the members in the next couple of months. Mr. Becker will check to see if the offer is still available.
2. **RHA - Annual Stream Cleanup - April 17, 2021**  
This was brought up to remind members that this is scheduled and volunteers are needed.

## **New Business**

### **1. Rain Garden at the Municipal Building**

The Township Administrator held a goal setting meeting with the department heads and the chair people of the boards and committees that serve the township. One of the suggestions was to install a rain garden at the municipal building. This idea will be explored with the grant opportunity with American Water that the township may apply for.

### **2. Sustainable Jersey and Readington's Efforts - Presentation**

Mr. Becker gave a presentation that provided an overview of Sustainable Jersey. He went over the benefits it provides the municipality. There is also an identical program for schools, in which Readington schools participate. Readington currently has a Silver status. Recertification occurs every three years. In three years, the certifications received allowed Readington to get grants totaling \$20,000. For 2022 recertification, they are looking to reform the Green Team, retain the gains made in previous years and focus on energy initiatives, emergency management and diversity. The goal will be to get 500 points. Commission members thanked Mr. Becker for all of his work in this effort.

### **3. NJ Shade Tree Federation Membership**

This organization does a great deal of good work and this membership should be renewed. Neil will identify who will be included in the municipal membership.

## **Other Business**

### **Plastics Ban**

In looking to identify ways to reach business owners in the community, an idea to resurrect the Business Council was raised. Other ideas include: having a listserv created with merchant information or having the township provide a list of all businesses that would be split up into groups and volunteers would reach out to each one and inform them of the ban (using a script). It was mentioned that homeowners should be included in the effort to relay the plastic ban information. Lambertville was used as an example of a municipality that effectively reached their community regarding a plastic ban.

### **Recycling - Contract Input**

The township administrator informed that the contract with Republic Services is set to expire at the end of 2021. Mr. Becker contacted someone from Republic Services who agreed to give a presentation to the Environmental Commission. Mr. Becker requested that members forward questions that they would like answered in the presentation so that it could be geared toward the topics that are most pressing, such as new technologies available, research that is occurring, etc. There was also a request to have a copy of the RFP that will be sent out this year for the recycling contract.

### **ANJEC Webinar - 2021 Goals & Actions for ECs - Available Online**

Noted

### **Subcommittee Updates**

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

Nothing to report.

## ***Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee***

### **Deer Management**

The number shown on the most current deer management report is around 65.

### **Grants Update**

Mr. Becker forwarded information regarding a 2021 Environmental Program grant opportunity for \$10,000 that is being sponsored by American Water to various committees in the township. He requested suggestions of activities or eligible projects that meet the criteria of the grant. It was suggested that this grant could be used to address the driveway at Whitehouse School that has a draining issue in addition to the aforementioned rain garden at the municipal building.

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

#### **1. Whitehouse Auto**

Appl# ZB20-003 -Block 18 Lots 12 – 378 Route 22 West

Preliminary & Final Site Plan with “D” Variance - Canopy & Sign

***The application is being revised and will be carried over to the March meeting.***

### **Public Comment**

The stream evaluation that was scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> was postponed indefinitely. The reason that it cannot be reschedule as of yet is because of the snow on the ground. Once the banks of the stream are visible, it will be rescheduled.

The annual report for the Environmental Commission was provided to the members. Mr. Becker made a motion to approve the report, Mr. Cook seconded; The motion carried unanimously. This annual report was sent to the Township Committee, who reviewed it a their meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Heller went over the report, item by item. The mayor recognized the work that the commission does.

Neil gave a recap of the Goal Setting meeting that the Township Administrator held with the Department heads and the chair people of the boards and committees that serve the township. On behalf of the Environmental Commission, Neil suggested that anything that could be done to help with climate change be given priority. All suggestions were consolidated and categorized them which will be presented to the Township Committee at a future meeting.

In a previous meeting, the Environmental Commission had requested the name and contact information for PSE&G about work/projects they are taking place in the Township. The administrator provided this information to Neil.

Mr. Cook gave a quick overview about the Trout in the Classroom program. He also expressed desire in being part of the Green Team when it is reformed. Mr. Charney expressed his enthusiasm for the Trout in the Classroom program as he is familiar with it.

### **Adjournment**

It was the consensus of the committee members to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Radziewicz

Secretary to the Environmental Commission