

**Readington Township Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2025**

**OPEN MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker 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.

**A) Roll Call**

Attendance	X = Present   - - - = Absent   - = Meeting Canceled										
Member	2/4	3/4	4/1	5/6	6/3	7/1	8/5	9/3	10/7	11/4	12/2
Becker	X	X	X	X							
Charney	X	X	X	X							
Foster	X	X	X	X							
Giroud	X	X	X	X							
Heller	X	---	X	---							
Hendrickson	---	X	X	---							
Masinda	---	X	X	X							
Panico	X	X	X	X							
Rao	X	X	X	X							

**B) Approval of Minutes:**

The 4/1/2025 minutes were approved. Steve Foster made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan Masinda, and carried by all.

**C) LOI/Freshwater Wetlands:**

No concerns.

**D) AOC (Areas of Concern):**

**1. Contaminated Sites Update:**

- a. The POET Survey was sent out mid-March. There have been 6 responses from the 20 sample surveys submitted. Chair Becker spoke with one of the residents who received the survey. He is still in the plan and has samples. He still has failure on the input side after all of these years. Ideas to better engage the residents who have the POET systems were discussed.
- b. A contaminated site that was identified on Route 22 is under review by the DEP and Township Engineer. Block 5 Lots 8 and 9.

**E) Correspondence:**

- a. LOI – Pertains to Bedminster and Readington – Lamington River Farm and Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. They are looking into golf course expansion.

## **F) Old Business:**

**F.1 MLUL Hazard Impact Score and Review:** The Chairman highlighted potential threats and the level ratings that the Board members had assigned to them. The members discussed the potential threats in detail. Identifying programs/processes to lessen the risk potential were talked about. Planning was determined to be key in keeping these potential risks low. Robert Becker motioned to approve the Climate Change Report (CCRHVA) and Steve Foster seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote.

**F.2 Member Assignments: Trees:** The pilot tree planting took place in the Dreahook area. It was determined that more and different equipment is needed. That project has moved rapidly. The tree planting technique was discussed. Ways to engage the community in tree planting were brainstormed. Getting the word out and managing volunteers are key to success. Schools will not get involved but they will help as far as promotion and backpack mail. Round Valley County Beech trees were surveyed and identified. A lot were found to have beech leaf disease. There currently is an effective treatment.

**Water:** The water group stated that as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, Readington Twp is still in a drought warning. Public awareness of drought conditions and education is a priority as most people are not aware.

**Meadows:** No update.

**Energy:** A review of options for the community and rating for benefit is in process.

**Communications:** Holland Brook Community Forest - Ideas were sent to the Mayor to review/approve to eventually put up on the township EC website.

**Animals:** Update on Kestrels: One box that has an egg close to the summer road trailhead. As spring moves on, there may be more. Deer Management: Applications for this year will be posted. We had 38 autorenewals for this coming year and have 66 total spots. With folks that met their quota, we anticipate 12 open spots for new hunters or folks that did not meet their quota. We will let the public know via our Face Book page about this program. Our 2025 Community Based Deer Management Grant was submitted to the DEP with an additional \$6K for venison donation assistance. We have additional signs that need to go up that will be coordinated with DPW.

**F.3 Sustainable Action Team:** The second-round deadline to submit actions narratives was May 16. We have 15 approvals, 16 resubmitted and another 10 to be worked on.

**F.4 Recycle Containers at Parks:** There is no consistency for Recycle Bins/Trash Bins at the parks. Source management exemption was discussed as a potential resolution.

**F.5 Green Design Check List:** No update.

**G) 2025 Objective check list:**

1. Community Energy plan. The grant goal is to improve our Township's carbon footprint.
2. Sites of environmental concern list: goal is for the ground water contamination issue to be brought to a head so we know what our people know and how we can go forward from that point.
3. Sustainable Jersey Program: Goal to score 10% more points than three years ago.
4. Land Use Pledge update. Being discussed by the Planning Board.
5. One public announcement a month.
6. One participation at an event in a year. Possible events/opportunities were discussed.
7. Migrate to ESRI and migrate data to other platforms. Possible replacement of street tree inventory.
8. Design reviews as requested.
9. Update Community Forestry Management Plan.
10. Respond to issues brought up by the public and Township Committee.

Chair Becker presented the Community Forestry Management Plan to the Board. He proceeded to go over the plan and highlighted some points of interest. The goal is to prioritize which forest stands are important. One action is finding places to remove invasives and plant new trees. It is good that the Township have continued approval in the Community Forestry Program.

Chair Becker made motion and Susan Masinda seconded, and the Community Forestry Management Plan was approved by a unanimous vote.

**H) Site Plan Review and Comment:**

None.

**I) Public/Members Comment:**

Trees have been taken down by Stanton Trust Bridge from the street to the water. Block 58 Lot 7.

**J) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Foster, seconded by Jason Giroud at 8:55 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sherri Russo*  
Advisory Board Secretary