

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2017

Attendance:

Member	JAN 4	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 5	MAY 3	JUN 7	AUG 2	SEP 6	OCT 4	NOV 1
Mrs. Allen	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Becker	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Heller	X		X	X						
Mr. Huelsebusch	X	X	X	X						
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X								
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X							
Mrs. Madon	X	X	X	X						
Mrs. Duffy	X		X	X						
Mr. John	X	X	X	X						
Mr. Klotz	X	X	X	X						
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X	X						

Members of the public: Charles Skee, Jerry Cook, Daniel Stoops, Lynnette Skowronek.

1. The Chairman calls the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.
2. Approval of the minutes: The March 1, 2017 minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Communications / Meeting Calendar / Monthly Walks / Event Updates:
 - a. The next walk will be April 23. It will be on Cushetunk Mountain from the County reservation in Clinton Township.
 - b. The tree seedling giveaway will be on April 29 at the municipal building from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - c. With regards to the farm tour, Mrs. Allen suggested that perhaps the spring tour will be of the Profeta Farm only, with the regular farm tour in the fall. The date is still to be determined.
4. Correspondence:

Vita Mekovetz sent a letter to the OSAB regarding a 3.8 acre parcel of land on the mountain side of Dreahook Road (Block 44, Lot 15). The Duke estate owns it and wishes to donate it to us. It is contiguous to some of our property. A motion was made by Mrs. Owen to accept the property. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Madon. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Huelsebusch will send a letter to Mrs. Mekovetz stating that we accept.
5. Regular Reports:

Readington Township Updates:

a. Possible **Dart's** Mill acquisition was discussed. The property includes the ruins of an old mill, a house, and river access.

b. A piece across from the Stanton Reformed Church was also brought up. It is a 20-acre property that includes an old stone house and is up Round Mountain. The possibility of acquiring the back 14 acres was discussed.

c. Regarding the Lazy Brook Road property that is encroaching on open space property where a future trail access is planned, Mr. Klotz asked if the Township had notified the property owner of the violation and what was the status of the matter. Mrs. Duffy said she would check with the Township about the matter.

Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Developments:

a. Farmland Preservation: The Schley property is still moving slowly forward. The survey has been done, and final approvals are needed before closing. The Profeta property is on hold.

b. Green Acres: The Lorenzen property is also slowly moving forward. Because the perc test cannot be done after May 1, it will be 2018 before the property can close. Transco has already transferred the funds, which are being held.

Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Updates:

Nothing major occurred. Mr. Huelsebusch met with Bill Millette to look at the strategic plan. More needs to be done on it.

Environmental Commission Updates:

Readington Farms is preparing an application to ask for a slight expansion of their facility. As part of their proposal, they have suggested a donation of approximately 9 acres on the east side of Mill Road, a parcel which they own, contiguous to other preserved land in the Whitehouse Greenway. This parcel will also be preserved open space.

6. Old and Ongoing Business:

The trail subcommittee met with The Chief of Police, Mayor Smith, and Lieutenant Grecco regarding the issues occurring on some trails and open space properties. Lieutenant Grecco is the liaison for the police. Mr. Klotz and Mrs. Owen are the liaisons for the OSAB. It was a productive meeting. Citizens need to report incidents to establish a record. The phone number to call is 908-534-4031, not 911. This number should be posted in the kiosks. Mr. Klotz gave the police department permission to patrol trails on their vehicles. ATVs can be confiscated by police. Charles Skee suggested giving volunteers a card showing that they are authorized. The trail subcommittee will discuss this. Mr. John will check with Mrs. Duffy to see if signs were ordered for the trails. We need to identify where to put the signs. Regarding the vandalism, the police have some cameras they can put up. Mr. Klotz will send Lieutenant Grecco trail maps.

7. New Business:

a. Mr. Heller mentioned that the trees for the giveaway and plantings will be picked up on April 28. They will be handed out at the municipal building on April 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Boy scouts will be helping. It was suggested that OSAB members who are helping out get there at 9:00 a.m. There will be 400 trees for the nursery and 400 for the school. The tree planting will be on Sunday, April 30, at 10:00 a.m. at the Doboziński Farm Park.

b. Mr. John pointed out that there will be a tree planting in May of approximately 30 to 40 trees that are currently in the nursery. There are new volunteers for two of the trails. Dru Toman will adopt the Yellow Trail on Round Mountain and on the River Trail. Mr. Stoops said he will take on the Whitehouse Greenway Trails. (Note: Cub Pack 180 has also adopted these trails.)

c. The Seventh Grade Walk in the Woods with Chip Shepherd will take place on May 30 and 31 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This is for the science classes. Anyone who would like to volunteer should let Mrs. Allen know. There will be teachers and parents along with the students.

d. Mr. Becker discussed the deer kill. There were 77 reported last year and 105 this year. He also pointed out that there is much in the works regarding emerald ash borer.

e. Mr. Becker asked what the procedure is for getting things re-done after vandalism. Who pays? The Department of Public Works does park maintenance and has a budget. Mr. Huelsebusch will notify Vita Mekovetz to tell the Recreation Department that they are in charge of signs.

f. Mr. Becker mentioned that Dr. Kelly proposed identifying the species and size of all trees within fifteen feet of all Readington Township roads. Mrs. Allen made a motion to approve Dr. **Kelly's** proposal, which was seconded by Mr. Klotz. The motion passed unanimously. The inventory will occur between June and September of this year.

g. Mr. Becker also brought up the AmeriCorps project from Raritan Headwaters to plant trees. He suggested doing Pleasant Run - replacing cages, cleaning out dead trees, and planting new ones.

h. Mr. Becker will re-apply for the community grant for tree inventory and emerald ash borer treatments.

8. Comments from the Public:

Daniel Stoops likes the idea of expanding the Whitehouse Greenway, which is in his neighborhood.

9. Comments from the Board:

a. Mr. Klotz advised that the police want trail maps of what areas they should patrol. We need to discuss which ones. Mr. Klotz and Mr. Heller will meet to discuss this.

b. Should we have a table at the Buffalo Watch on May 13? Mr. Huelsebusch will ask Scarlet Doyle about this.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.