

# Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 6 , 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	X	X	X	X		
Mr. Becker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mr. Heller	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mr. Huelsebusch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X			X	X		X		
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X					X		
Mrs. Madon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mrs. Duffy	X		X	X		X		X		
Mr. John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mr. Klotz	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Members of the Public: Susan Masinda, Jerry Cook, John Robben, Joseph Robben (Boy Scout, Troop 186).

1. The Chairman calls the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

2. Communications / Meeting Calendar / Monthly Walks / Event Updates:

a. Mr. Klotz announced that the September 17 walk will be on the Pleasant Run Greenway. The August walk was on a new County trail (blue trail) on Round Mountain. It starts where the Peter Buell Trail is and veers off. The October 15 walk will be on the Lachenmeyer trail, and the November 19 walk will be on the Vislocky trail.

b. Scout Joseph Robben presented his proposal to create a new trail section on the Lazy Brook Trail. He will clear the trail in the woods and meadow, put posts in and paint them, dig holes for concrete to anchor benches and install benches. He will also put up markers for the trail and install a bridge. It was suggested he meet with Mrs. Owen to find the best location for the bridge. The proposed budget is \$620, which is covered by a trail grant. Mr. Heller suggested mulching by the benches and confirming their locations with a Board member. Proposed start time is September 15 to September 17. End time is mid October. Mr. Becker

pointed out that we need to contact the Department of Public Works to deliver the benches and bridge it has been storing. Mr. Huelsebusch suggested a split rail corner be placed near the kiosk on Lazy Brook Road to mark the spot better. Mrs. Duffy made a motion to approve the plan, with Mr. Becker supervising. Mr. Klotz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence:

a. Mr. Huelsebusch shared a letter he received from the State of New Jersey mentioning that appropriations bills have been signed (A4580-4582 and A4584) that provide \$65.3 million for farmland preservation and stewardship activities. This includes \$32.5 million for county Planning Incentive Grants, \$7.5 million for municipal Planning Incentive Grants, \$14.3 million for State acquisitions, \$2.9 million for non-profit programs, and \$1.5 million for stewardship cost-share.

b. Mr. Huelsebusch composed a letter from the Open Space Advisory Board to Michele Byers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, supporting the organization's application to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) for the Black River Greenway soil and water protection project.

4. Regular Reports:

Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Developments:

a. The Schley property will close on September 15. This is 20 acres of farmland on the corner of Island Road and Lamington Road.

b. Mrs. Duffy mentioned that a contract is being prepared between the Township and the Lorenzen property, which is 22 acres on top of Cushetunk Mountain (Block 44, Lot 4.02) and a lot on Dreahook Road.

c. Mr. Huelsebusch and Mrs. Allen met with PSE&G to discuss potential licensing agreements on two properties in which trails and kiosks can be built. One parcel is on Mountain Road and connects the Cushetunk Nature Preserve to the DeGeronimo property. The other parcel is at the top of Round Mountain. PSE&G was shown alternate access routes to Round Mountain.

d. Mr. Huelsebusch made a site visit to the Irvington Board of Education property off Route 31 and met with an individual caretaker for the Board of Education property.

e. The Open Space Advisory Board is reviewing properties around the Round Mountain area, including Woodschurch and Stanton Roads.

f. Members of the Open Space Advisory Board have met with members of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in order to begin a working relationship with them.

g. Dr. Hendrickson met with Bruce Wales while in California. Mr. Wales owns a property on Lightfield Road and has expressed an interest in preserving it.

Environmental Commission Updates: The 319h grant for water management is proceeding.

5. Old and Ongoing Business:

a. Mr. John informed the Board of his scheduled dates for work sessions, which include tree planting and other work. The dates are September 16, September 23, October 7, October 21, October 28, and November 4.

b. Mr. Klotz has been working on the River Trail. It has been mowed from one end to the other. He will work on the trail signs and posts.

c. Maps for the Master Plan update are needed as soon as possible.

6. New Business:

a. Dr. Kelly said that we should try to see what stewardship funds (grants, etc.) are available.

b. Mr. Becker noted that the grant for Holland Brook is being resubmitted with an organization that will supply trees and tubes, but no fencing.

c. The bids for deer hunting on Readington Township's properties is \$25,000, which is up \$2,500 from last year.

d. The Open Space Advisory Board needs to consider where to put pollinator plants. It's best to let locally-sourced seeds become established. The Department of Public Works should not mow these sites every year.

e. It was suggested that the Board make a binder detailing when to mow the various fields.

f. If anybody mows a trail, please let Mr. Klotz and Mrs. Owen know.

g. Mrs. Owen will ask the Readington Trail Association at the next meeting if they know of a trailer suitable for the OSAB brush hog.

h. Mrs. Owen will ask the RTA at the next meeting to donate the extra fencing for the parking area on Cole Road East when it is enlarged. Perhaps the Department of Public Works will provide the stone.

i. Mrs. Owen also thanked Mr. Becker for mowing the trail from the bridge to the water crossing on the Doboinski Farm, thereby making it easier for horses to access the trail.

7. Comments from the Public: Member of the public Susan Masinda spoke about a 175-acre property south of Meadow Road that Chubb put up for sale, with Roseland Cemetery possibly purchasing it. This property is near the Lamington River and includes wetlands.

8. Comments from the Board: Dr. Kelly is looking for a used diesel pick-up truck. He is also looking for cow manure.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.