

READINGTON TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 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	X	
Mr. Huelsebusch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X			X	X		X	X	
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X					X	X	
Mrs. Madon	X	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	X	
Mr. Klotz	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Members of the public: Lynnette Skowronek.

1. The Chairman calls the meeting to order at 7:07 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 October 15 walk will be on the Lachenmeyer trail, starting at Roosevelt Road near the ballpark. The November 19 walk will be on the Cushetunk trail from Pickell Park.
 - b. Mr. John announced the following trail sessions: October 7 - Bowman-Stickney Farm, October 21 - Lazy Brook north, October 28 - River trail, November 4 - Vislocky trail.
3. Approval of the minutes: Dr. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017, meeting. It was seconded by Dr. Hendrickson and passed unanimously.
4. Correspondence: The OSAB received notification that Readington Township has \$500,000 for Green Acres from the State.
5. Regular Reports:

Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Developments:
The Schley property closed. This is the second farm that was preserved this year.

Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Update:

- a. There have been no major updates nor funds distributed.
- b. The County will combine funding non-profits and co-ops into one.
- c. The County strategic plan for the next ten years will be made public in

November.

Readington Township Updates:

- a. The Township Committee approved a contract to purchase the approximately 14 acres of forest lands on Round Mountain near Stanton.
- b. There is a forty-acre property near the temple by Route 31 and Stanton Station Road that is progressing with the County. The Township supports this acquisition lead by the County.
- c. Hunterdon County is also looking at a property off Foothill Road near Route 31.
- d. The County is also interested in the 110-acre Irvington property off Route 31 for preservation and trail connections along the South Branch.
- e. The Darts Mill property is progressing with Readington Township.
- f. The Readington Township Committee discussed the Lorenzen property off Dreahook Road, which is progressing.

Environmental Commission Update:

The 319h grant for water management is once again proceeding.

6. Old and Ongoing Business:

a. With regard to deer hunting, discussions are in progress about the scope of hunting allowed on smaller properties and notification to the neighbors. Once such proposals are agreed upon, a notice would be placed on the township website and communicated. More information to follow as known.

b. Mr. Klotz was informed by a hunt club leader that people are hiking and riding horses without wearing orange on the Cole Road East trail. The Department of Public Works puts up signs about this. The hunt club leader would like to go to the municipal building to get the signs and put them up.

c. Scout Joseph Robben, who is working on the Lazy Brook trail, did a rough trail with a brush hog. Fencing for the trail head by Lazy Brook Road is up.

d. Mr. Hulsebusch has requested maps of the trails that can be put on the Township website. Mr. Becker has GPS maps of the Forest Hill and Lazy Brook trails.

e. Mr. Klotz pointed out that the Department of Public Works did most of the mowing on the Lachenmeyer Trail in preparation for the upcoming walk. The autumn olives are

encroaching quite a bit. Brian and Lynnette Skowronek of the Readington Trail Association do much of the mowing and trail clearing on the Lachenmeyer trail.

f. Changes need to be made to the blue trail behind Pickell Park.

g. It was suggested that we submit articles to the Hunterdon County Democrat to inform readers of land preserved. The Open Space Advisory Board also needs to point out connections between our trails, as the County likes to see connections.

h. Mr. Klotz requested that Board members inform him of any new ideas of what scouts can do.

i. Dr. Kelly met with someone working on improving the Whittemore trails in Tewksbury Township. The individual was requesting advice for improving and maintaining trails.

7. New Business:

a. Dr. Kelly mentioned that, in order to apply for stewardship funding from the NCRS, a forest management plan is required.

b. Mr. Klotz said that Chip Sheppard would like to do a seventh grade walk in the woods in October. He is looking for volunteers.

8. Comments from the Public:

Lynnette Skowronek, of the Readington Trail Association, stated that she has been pulling out invasives at the end of Roosevelt Road by Pine Bank Road.

9. Comments from the Board:

Mr. Huelesebusch said that he and Mrs. Allen will be working on open space updates with the County. Currently 8,912 acres, or 29.7% of Township land, have been preserved. They will be updating the Master Plan OS element by the end of the year to remain compliant with Green Acres requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.