

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 1, 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		X
Mr. Becker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Mr. Heller	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mr. Huelsebusch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X			X	X		X	X	
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X					X	X	X
Mrs. Madon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mrs. Duffy	X		X	X		X		X		X
Mr. John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mr. Klotz	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Members of the public: Adam Mueller, Lynnette Skowronek.

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. The November 19 walk will be on the Cushetunk trail from Pickell Park, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
 - b. Mr. Huelsebusch pointed out that the New Jersey Water Authority will hold an open house regarding the reconstruction of the dams at Round Valley. It will be held on November 14, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at North Hunterdon Regional High School, Cafeteria A.
3. Approval of the minutes: Mr. Klotz made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2017, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Heller.
4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence.
5. Regular Reports:

Environmental Commission Updates:

The Township recently concluded successful well water testing for residents. The December Environmental Commission meeting will present the results of the well testing.

Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee Updates:

- a. The next meeting will be held on November 20 at the County Complex.
- b. Mr. Huelsebusch met with the new director.
- c. Three areas for the County to focus on for preservation are Round Mountain, Cushetunk Mountain, and the South Branch.

Readington Township Updates:

- a. The Township is presently working on finalizing the purchase of 14 acres on Round Mountain.
- b. The potential licensing agreement between the Township and PSE&G on two properties in Readington Township should be placed on the agenda for the Township **Committee's** consideration.
- c. The donation of 3.8 acres on Cushetunk Mountain is awaiting a Dukes Estate update / approval.

Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Developments:

- a. The farmland preservation easement on the Schley property closed. This is 20 acres of farmland on the corner of Island Road and Lamington Road.
- b. The purchase of a portion of Block 44, Lot 4.02 on top of Cushetunk Mountain off Dreahook Road from Lorenz is progressing.
- c. The purchase of a property on Round Mountain off Stanton Road is also progressing.

6. Old and Ongoing Business:

- a. Mrs. Owen apprised the Open Space Advisory Board that the Readington Trail Association spent 130 hours clearing trails, which involved mowing, trimming, and tree removal. Mr. Huelsebusch requested that Mrs. Owen thank the RTA for us.
- b. Mr. Klotz notified Mrs. Allen about the native grass field at the Cole Road Greenway requiring mowing. She will speak with Eric Doyle.
- c. Mr. Klotz suggested updating maps and sitting down with Mrs. Mekovetz and the Department of Public Works regarding a mowing schedule. This also needs to be discussed with Mr. Profeta.
- d. Mr. Huelsebusch pointed out that the OSAB needs to get updated maps on the Township website.
- e. Mr. Becker indicated the need to speak with the County about discrepancies on their maps. Mr. Huelsebusch will make contact.
- f. Mr. John informed the Board of the upcoming trail projects and work sessions, which will include planting trees most weekends. The Vislocky trail session will be at the Vislocky trail on November 4 at 9:00 a.m. On November 18, also at 9:00 a.m., the session will be held at the River trail. The remaining trees in the tree nursery will be planted at these work sessions. Mr. John will plan for next **year's** sessions in March.
- g. Mr. Heller advised that the time to start planning for next **year's** trees is in January. The Open Space Advisory Board should plan for 1,500 to 2,000 trees.
- h. Mr. Becker conveyed that there needs to be clarification regarding who puts up the orange deer hunting advisory signs. The Township also needs to be sure the hunt clubs put them up. The yield data at the end of the hunting season will be looked at in order to revise the deer plan.

- i. Mr. Becker reported that the 2014 forest management plan needs to be updated and renewed in 2018. The OSAB did not get the stewardship incentive grant for forest management.
- j. Regarding the development of the Lazy Brook Greenway, it is not yet complete. Bridges are installed. The trail blaze posts could not be put in, even with a power auger, due to hard, dry soil. A new map will be issued once the trail is complete. Mr. Huelsebusch thanked everyone who helped in this endeavor.
- k. Mr. Becker informed the Open Space Advisory Board regarding the plan for emerald ash borer. While only 25% of the tree inventory is complete, there is enough data to treat ash trees that are desirable. A treatment schedule and strategy will be developed over the winter. Ash yellow is another disease of the ash trees. Of the trees surveyed, 16% (606 trees) are ash. Other dominant trees in Readington Township are red cedars and red maples.
- l. Mr. Becker has a boy scout who is interested in doing a tree inventory in the Township parks.
- j. OSAB needs to strategize to determine what stewardship projects to do. Dr. Kelly, Mrs. Madon, and Mr. Heller have shown an interest in participating in the stewardship committee.

7. New Business:

Mrs. Allen indicated that for 20 years Readington Township has been participating in Green Acres PIG (Planning Incentive Grants) program. The **Township's** last master plan was completed in 2001. In order to receive future PIG awards, the master plan must be updated by December of this year. She and Mr. Huelsebusch are working on this. The environmental resources inventory from 2001 can be used in the newest master plan. Much of the 1995 greenways plan is still good, but some updating is required. The newest plan will discuss potential connections between Township and County land. Sometime next year the plan can be presented to the public.

8. Comments from the Public: None.

9. Comments from the Board:

- a. Mrs. Duffy agreed to find out whether the Township ordered and received the dog leash warning signs we requested.
- b. Dr. Kelly informed the OSAB that the Jackson tree nursery is donating two white pines to plant at Holland Brook School. He also informed the Open Space Advisory Board that all of the plantings in front of the school are invasive.
- c. Mr. Klotz reminded the Board that any revised recommendations to the Township regarding the leasing of land for agricultural use be submitted.
- d. The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Mr. Huelsebusch at the annual volunteer dinner. Congratulations were extended.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.