

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 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							
Mr. Becker	X	X	X							
Mr. Heller	X		X							
Mr. Huelsebusch	X	X	X							
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X								
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X							
Mrs. Madon	X	X	X							
Mrs. Duffy	X		X							
Mr. John	X	X	X							
Mr. Klotz	X	X	X							
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X							

Members of the public: Allen Cummings, Jerry Cook, Lynnette Skowronek.

1. The Chairman calls the meeting to order at 7:05 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 the following schedule of Open Space hikes: March 19, Cole Road Greenway East; April 23 (fourth Sunday due to Easter), Lazy Brook Greenway.
 - b. Mrs. Allen announced that the farm tour will be Sunday, May 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
3. Approval of the minutes: Mr. Becker made a motion approve the minutes of the February 1, 2017 meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Heller. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Correspondence: Mrs. Duffy received an email from a neighbor of the trail across from the Stanton General Store (part of Round Mountain trail system) regarding overuse of the trail for commercial horse usage. A sign was put up to cease and desist commercial horse use.
5. Regular Reports:

Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Updates:

- a. Farmland Preservation: The Cole Farm, a 22 acre property in the historic district of the Village of Readington, on Readington Road, has closed and preserved using funds from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, plus State and Federal funds. There was no cost to the Township, and there is a farmland preservation easement. The Schley property on Island Road is a couple of months away from closing.
- b. Green Acres: Possible expansion to the Whitehouse Greenway was discussed.

Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Updates:

- a. The Committee is looking at a twenty-acre property on Round Mountain.
- b. Mrs. Duffy mentioned that the Township is interested in the Darts Mill property.

Environmental Commission Updates:

- a. The 319h grant for water management is proceeding.
- b. New Jersey American Water has \$10,000 grants available, with a due date of March 27. Various possible uses for the grant were discussed.
- c. A woman from Americore is interested in planting trees, but the Committee needs to investigate whether we need to pay for this service.

Readington Township Updates:

- a. Mrs. Duffy announced that, due to Mr. **Becker's** emerald ash borer presentation, the entire Township Committee is ready to fund efforts to save ash trees.
- b. Mrs. Duffy will follow up with Mrs. Mekovetz to see if a letter was sent to the owners of Block 94, Lot 19 on Lazy Brook Road, which is encroaching onto Township open space.

6. Old and Ongoing Business:

- a. Mr. Heller applied for 2,000 trees. Pick up will be April 28, and the tree give-away will be on April 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Four hundred trees will go to our tree nursery, and 400 will be given to schools to give to all the third grade students. Mrs. Allen will write an article about this for Readington News, and Mr. Klotz will put this on the website.
- b. Dr. Kelly mentioned that three of the maple syrup buckets at the Forest Hill Preserve were vandalized. Mr. Klotz pointed out that Mayor Smith will set up a meeting with the Chief of Police to discuss what can be done about the vandalism and other issues that were brought up at last **month's** meeting.
- c. Mr. John is attempting to consolidate trail projects and see when each trail was last cleared. He will use a Google Share document so that all interested parties can see the information.
- d. There was a discussion regarding signage. More "**No Motorized Vehicles**" and "**Dogs on Leash**" signs are needed. Mr. Becker mentioned that there are some "**Private Property**" signs on our public lands. The Committee will decide on some standardized signs that everyone, even hunt clubs, will be required to use.
- e. Members of the Committee will take a look at the website and discuss what is not needed and how to improve it.
- f. Mr. Heller asked anyone who has an idea for a scout project to contact him.
- g. Mr. Becker advised that there will be a bee-collection project off Hixon Road by the Pleasant Run Trail. This is being done for research purposes. Mrs. Duffy said that the Township Committee has approved this project, and she will draft a letter to send to the neighbors informing them of this project.

7. Comments From the Public:

Mr. Cook pointed out that an issue came up at the latest Planning Board meeting. There are three or four large, mature trees along the driveway west of the Ryland Inn. The Township Committee has required that these trees be saved, but the developers want to cut them down.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.