

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
August 2, 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			
Mr. Becker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mr. Heller	X		X	X	X	X	X			
Mr. Huelsebusch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Dr. Hendrickson	X	X			X	X				
Dr. Kelly	X	X	X							
Mrs. Madon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mrs. Duffy	X		X	X		X				
Mr. John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mr. Klotz	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mrs. Owen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			

Members of the public: Lynnette Skowronek.

1. The Chairman calls the meeting to order at 7:08 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 June 7, 2017, minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Communications / Meeting Calendar / Monthly Walks / Event Updates: Mr. Klotz announced the following Open Space hikes: August 20, Round Mountain from Stanton Village; September 17, Pleasant Run Greenway.

4. Correspondence: Mr. Huelsebusch sent an email to Vita Mekovetz regarding 72 Lazy Brook Road. The owner of the property is currently taking corrective action on the encroachment.

5. Regular Reports:

Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Updates:

- a. The closing on the Schley property on Island Road is imminent.
- b. The Lorenzen property is back in the running. There has been an agreement to the purchase of 22 acres on top of Cushetunk Mountain (Block 44, Lot 4.02) and a lot on Dreahook Road.

Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Updates:

- a. On July 17, 2017, a grant for the Lorenzen property was approved.
- b. The Freeholders are continuing to update the Strategic Parks and Open Space Plan, which is not yet available for public review.

c. Interns are tasked with updating County maps. Mr. Huelesebusch has briefed the County Planner that sections of the Readington maps, especially Three Bridges, are not complete with respect to highlighting preserved farms and preserved Township properties.

d. Mr. Huelesebusch has provided the New Jersey Conservation Foundation with a list of property updates, and they are planning to update the NJMAPs information.

Environmental Commission Updates:

a. There has been no progress on the 319h grant for water management. Princeton Hydro is working on this.

b. Steve Foster contacted Mr. Becker regarding the Pleasant Run impairments. Mr. Foster has some grant money to use on this. Mr. Foster and Mr. Becker will meet to discuss.

c. Mr. Huelesebusch received a request from Mr. Foster to thank those people who helped out at the third grade tree disbursement.

Readington Township Updates:

a. Vita Mekovetz is working on a draft of a form to give to the State Green Acres program when we apply for funds.

b. The 40-acre property on the South Branch in Stanton Station that we are working on with the Freeholders is progressing.

c. The Planning Board has appointed a subcommittee for the Township masterplan. A 1998 amendment deals most comprehensively with open space, along with smaller amendments. Green Acres will not give Planning Incentive Grants until the masterplan is updated. It's due in December of this year. We need a digital copy of the current document, which Mr. John has and will provide.

6. Old and Ongoing Business:

a. Mr. John had a meeting of the trail committee. He will resend his Google doc on our trails.

b. Information on when the Department of Public Works needs to maintain trails can be put on the Google doc for them to access.

c. Regarding a budget for maintenance of trails, perhaps funds could be put into an Open Space trust to be used for this purpose.

c. There are some Norwegian Maple seedlings in the Forest Hill Preserve deer enclosure.

d. There are approximately 100 trees in our nursery at the Doboinski Farm Park. We need more cages.

e. The trail at the Doboinski Farm has been mowed to the bridge, but the 300 feet from the bridge to the horse trail needs mowing also. The native grass field, near the kiosk of the Cole Road Greenway, still has not been mowed. All four legs of the White Trail on Round Mountain need to be mowed. Mr. Klotz will send the Department of Public Works a request to mow the field with a map. If Scott of the DPW knows what to do, he will do it. If any Board member sees a trail that needs mowing, send an email to Mr. Huelesebusch, Mr. John, and Mr. Klotz.

f. Mr. Klotz pointed out that there's a lot of work that needs to be done on the blue trail (Vislocky Farm). At his request, DPW has this week mowed the blue and yellow trails in the Vislocky Farm section, and a neighboring trail volunteer mowed the trail connections in the power line section. Yet another volunteer has kept the trail open and clear of brambles and put down gravel fill in the wet and muddy section of the old farm lane.

7. New Business:

a. Eric Doyle mows the fields at the Doboziński Farm. Mrs. Allen will contact him and request that he not mow until mid October due to late monarch butterfly chrysalides and emerging butterflies. This field has large amounts of milkweed, the only food of the caterpillars. The butterflies, which are threatened, migrate to Mexico.

b. Mr. Becker pointed out that the tree inventory is started. It will be an inventory of all trees within 15 feet of Township roads. Students of the Raritan Valley School of Environmental Sciences is completing the inventory. From this inventory the Open Space Advisory Board will be able to form a strategy for emerald ash borer treatment.

c. Boy Scout Joseph Robins will be finishing the work at the Lazy Brook Greenway. He will present his plan to the Board at the September meeting.

d. The Board discussed acquiring a trailer for the brush hog, which is stored at the Doboziński Farm Park. Mrs. Owen will follow up on this.

e. Mr. Huelsebusch and other Board members will see where to put a small parking area, bridge, and mini kiosk at the Lazy Brook Greenway.

8. Comments from the Public: None.

9. Comments from the Board:

a. Mr. Heller has a list of pollinator plants. There are some girl scouts expressing an interest in this.

b. Mr. John will email Mrs. Duffy to ask about "leashing your dog" signs.

c. Any Board member making contact with property owners after purusing maps and the properties on them should inform Mr. Huelsebush and Mrs. Allen.

d. PSE&G needs access to high tension wires near the Acetola property. The Board needs to help them find a way to access these wires over Township property rather than the Acetola property. This would stop them from cutting trees on the Acetola property.

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