

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2020

Attendance:

Member	JAN 8	FEB 5	MAR 4	APR 1	MAY 6	JUN 3	AUG 5	SEP 2	OCT 7	NOV 4
Mr. Huelsebusch, Chair	X		X							
Mrs. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X	X							
Dr. Hendrickson		X	X							
Mr. John	X	X	X							
Dr. Kelly		X	X							
Mrs. Madon	X	X	X							
Mr. Mueller	X		X							
Mr. Orlandi	X		X							
Mrs. Owen	X		X							
Mr. Bola, 1st Alternate		X								
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X	X							

Members of the Public: Jerry Cook, Sue Hyland.

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 the this meeting has been duly advertised.
2. Attendance: As noted above.
3. Approval of the minutes: Mr. Klotz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Mueller and approved unanimously by voice vote.
4. Community Communications:

a. Dr. Kelly mentioned that many volunteers participated in the completion of the Dreahook Road deer enclosure.

b. Dr. Hendrickson pointed out that there was a debris clean-up at the Gallo property on Chambers Brook Road. The Department of Public Works did a great job sorting all of the debris and putting it in trucks.

c. Mr. Klotz said that he had volunteers helping for trail work sessions on Cole Road, the Lachenmeyer property and the Round Mountain trail system.

d. Mr. Klotz stated that the March 15 walk will be at Cole Road East, and a Girl Scout Troop may join. The April walk will be at the Lachenmeyer property, and May's walk will be on the Peter Buell Trail on Round Mountain, leaving from the Stanton Reformed Church parking lot.

e. Mr. John mentioned that he will have a group of 80 students and 8 teachers from Basking Ridge from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help in Readington Township for their day of public service. He asked for suggestions on what work they could do. Dr. Hendrickson suggested tree planting, perhaps at Holland Brook Headwaters, by the Silver Bit and Spur Farm, or the Pleasant Run Greenway. Dr. Kelly suggested data collection, while Mrs. Allen mentioned the Community Garden.

5. Correspondence: None.

6. Regular Reports:

Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Developments: Mrs. Allen reported no changes, and still waiting to close on the Saums property on Rockafellows Mill Road.

Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Updates: Mr. Huelsebusch indicated that the County will purchase a 37-acre Township property on Stanton Station Road adjacent to the Prescott Preserve. The Committee's next meeting will be on March 30.

Environmental Commission: Dr. Hendrickson mentioned that there was a presentation on well testing. Residents should have their well water tested, as things are showing up in some wells tested. The proposed tree ordinance and plastic ordinance are progressing. The tree pick-up this year is 10 days earlier than usual, so we will have to keep the roots wet. After discussion, the OSAB proposed April 17 for tree sorting and April 18 for the tree give away. Tree planting will take place at the Doboinski Farm Park on April 26.

Readington Township Updates: Mr. Huelsebusch has requested that the Department of Public Works put in a trailhead by the Gallo property.

7. Old and Ongoing Business:

a. Trails subcommittee updates:

i. Mr. Klotz said that he has not heard from the DPW yet regarding the status of the mowing outsourcing.

ii. Mr. Klotz continues to update trail maps. He noted that there are many unmarked trails. While mapping trails on the Vislocky property, he found a new path into the woods with a nice bridge below the second field.

iii. Mr. Klotz is updating the volunteer opportunities list. The web posting has resulted in 20 volunteers so far. Now we need to plan more activities that the volunteers can join in; however, to accomplish this we would need more work session leaders. Mr. Klotz proposed members offer to lead a work session, and he would provide support. Mrs. Madon volunteered to lead a session. Various opportunities were discussed.

b. Stewardship subcommittee updates:

i. Dr. Kelly reported that 12 volunteers helped install a deer enclosure at the Holland Brook Headwaters. He has a group of wildlife volunteers helping monitor and fix deer enclosures.

ii. Dr. Kelly also said that seeds for the pollinator gardens need to be ordered. At this time strips of plastic are being put down to suppress early growth.

c. The Environmental Commission's deer subcommittee met last month. According to Mr. Mueller, the deer hunting season went well. In the first year of the individual program there were 8 participants, with 19 deer harvested. They are still trying to collect data from the hunt clubs. They plan on recommending that more properties be added.

d. Two grants were submitted to Sustainable New Jersey: one for our meadows, and one for improving retention basins to support wildlife.

8. New Business: None.

9. Comments from the Public: Jerry Cook pointed out that Readington Township has the largest deer population per square mile in Central New Jersey.

10. Comments from the Board:

a. Mrs. Allen has been impressed with the efforts of our volunteers.

b. The issue of possibly allowing hunters in the individual hunting program to also hunt on Sundays to increase the harvest had earlier been broached. Mrs. Owen suggested keeping Sundays free from hunting so that equestrians and hikers feel safe to enjoy the trails. Other members agreed.

11. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mueller. It was seconded by Dr. Hendrickson and passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

