

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

September 2, 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		X	X	X	X		
Mrs. Allen, Vice Chair	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Dr. Hendrickson		X	X		X	X	X	X		
Mr. John	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Dr. Kelly		X	X		X		X			
Mrs. Madon	X	X	X		X	X		X		
Mr. Mueller	X		X		X	X	X	X		
Mr. Orlandi	X		X		X	X	X	X		
Mrs. Owen	X		X		X	X	X	X		
Mr. Bola, 1st Alternate		X				X	X	X		
Mr. Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		

Members of the Public: Township Mayor Jonathan Heller.

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. Attendance, via video conference: As noted above.
3. Approval of the minutes: After it was pointed out that Dr. Kelly and Mr. Bola attended the August, 2020, virtual meeting, Mr. Klotz made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, with Mr. Orlandi seconding the motion. Motion was approved by voice vote.

4. Community Communications:

a. Mr. John mentioned that the Rocky Road trail work session of Saturday, August 30, has been postponed until September 12. The weekend after that there will be some tree planting and clearing sessions. Mr. John will give the information to Mr. Klotz to add to the online Volunteer Opportunities list.

b. Dr. Hendrickson is planning a work session at Silver Bit & Spur Farm to Holland Brook.

c. Mr. John advised the Board that there are 127 trees in the nursery, and it is cleaned up. He has been looking for gaps in the trails where work needs to be done, and he will let Mr. Klotz know about the condition the trails. The yellow trail on the Pleasant Run Greenway is very overgrown. Mr. Klotz pointed out that a portion of the Holland Brook Headwaters trail is no longer there, as it is very overgrown.

d. Mr. Huelsebusch noted that the OSAB power point at the municipal building is now activated, and he asked Mr. Klotz give him information on work sessions. The monthly walks are still on hold. Mrs. Allen stated that people have been asking about walks. Is there a way to have a small walk with limited advertising? Suggestions included a walk divided into two groups, or inviting the Environmental Commission for a walk on the Chambers Brook / Gallo property. Mr. Orlandi pointed out that there is a tendency to abandon safe practices when in groups, and it should be emphasized that it is up to participants to walk safely.

5. Correspondence: Mr. Huelsebusch received an email from Hunterdon Land Trust board member Ron Monaco.

6. Regular Reports:

**Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Developments:** Mrs. Allen reported that they are awaiting the survey for the Saums property, after which the property will be divided into Green Acres and farmland preservation acreage. It is progressing well.

**Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee Updates:** Mr. Huelsebusch informed the Board that the Fitzgerald property on Coddington Road has been approved, and half of the funding is now authorized. There is a second property of 37 acres in Stanton Station being discussed, as well as 2 1/2 acres of wetlands on the South Branch. The Committee will meet next in late September. Stanton

**Environmental Commission Updates:** Dr. Hendrickson said that tree information regarding emerald ash borer and spotted lantern fly has been updated on the Township website. The Township Committee needs to hire a vendor to remove dead ashes. There is a big push to protect watersheds. Well testing is important, and the EC needs volunteers for this effort. Dr.

Hendrickson commended Mr. Mueller on doing a great job with hunter orientation. Mr. Mueller stated that this was the first time the orientation included both clubs and individual hunters. In 2019 there were 8 successful applicants. In 2020 there were 20 successful applicants in only one week. All properties where hunting is allowed will be hunted. At the orientation safety and sharing the woods were emphasized. Mr. Orlandi gave his compliments to Mr. Mueller for getting three times the applicants on short order and under difficult circumstances.

Mr. Orlandi, in discussing the recently-formed Readington Stream and Groundwater Subcommittee, pointed out that the clean water issue integrates much of what we do in various committees, non profits, etc. This subcommittee is an umbrella for all the ongoing activities and will help coordinate everything. The Raritan Headwaters non-profit organization is very important in helping us maintain clean water. There are two new initiatives in the next month. One is stream clean-up, which was not done as usual this year due to Covid-19. Mr. Orlandi suggested stretching it out over 1 1/2 to 2 months, perhaps with adopt-a-stream for the clean-up. The second initiative is well testing, which also could not be done as usual due to Covid-19. Raritan Headwaters wants to stretch it out, with a drive up to pick up and drop off kits. For these two items, more volunteers are needed. A power point regarding these initiatives could be developed.

Mr. Huelsebusch pointed out that he had a conversation with Freeholder Shaun Van Doren regarding C-1 streams.

**Readington Township Updates:** None.

7. Old and Ongoing Business:

a. Mr. Klotz and Mr. John will try to schedule a meeting of the trails subcommittee. There were many downed trees on trails due to tropical storm Isaias. The blockages have been cleaned up thanks to Dr. Hendrickson.

b. Mr. Klotz stated that mowing is mostly up-to-date, with the exception of the contracted mowing of some trails. It is not done frequently enough on those trails, so the grass gets long.

c. Mr. Klotz remarked that the County is re-doing its Round Mountain map, with input from Readington Township.

8. New Business: Mr. Klotz suggested the OSAB consider purchasing a laminator for the signs and information that are put along the trails.

9. Comments from the Public: None.

10. Comments from the Board:

a. Mrs. Owen thanked Mr. Mueller for the great job he did regarding hunting.

b. Dr. Hendrickson mentioned that there is a collection box for recyclables by the railroad station, and many items have been collected. The schools get benches for collecting a certain amount.

c. Dr. Hendrickson is working on the tree ordinance.

11. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Hendrickson, seconded by Mr. Mueller, and passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Sandra Madon.