

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2021

PRESENT (via teleconference):

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Jessica Ray, Rebecca Buczynski, Griffen Herd (sp?), Jonathan Heller, Jerry Cook, Robert Becker.

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

REORG FOR 2021:

Chair Huelsebusch stated that the Board membership and Chairs remain the same as 2020. Meeting date schedule will remain the same as well. John Klotz made a motion to approve meeting dates, Neil Hendrickson seconded. Motion was approved.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Website:** John Klotz stated that an updated Round Mountain trail map was posted to the Township website.
- 2) **Trail Walks:** Julia Allen stated that there are no walks scheduled for January. John Klotz stated that he will work on sending an email to past participants with info on trails.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Julia Allen made a motion to approve the November minutes, with Adam Mueller seconding the motion. Motion was approved.

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation:** Julia Allen stated that there is one active application – the 54 acre Saums farm. The application is moving forward with a hopeful early Spring closing.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB Update:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that he recently met with Bill Millette (County) to discuss current projects and acquisitions.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:**
 - a. **Plastics Ban:** Neil Hendrickson stated that the Municipal Clerk has been getting phone calls from residents concerning the plastics ban. Neil stated that webinars will be held in the near future to help with the roll out of the ban. Neil stated that they are looking for volunteers to help collect the plastics and deliver to Bridgewater.
 - b. **Silver Bit & Spur:** Neil Hendrickson reported that PSE&G laid hay bales, fabric matting, and silk fence which helped reduce erosion and water run-off.
 - c. **Deer Management:** Adam Mueller stated that to date the clubs and individual hunters have matched the total number of deer killed in 2019/2020 season. Adam stated that there is still six weeks left of the season.

MEADOW MANAGEMENT:

Dr. Kelly gave an overview of the current meadow management project which includes inventory of meadows, plants, birds, and butterflies. Dr. Kelly stated that this project is being funded by a grant through Sustainable Jersey with cooperation from the Environmental Commission and Raritan Valley Community College. RVCC Staff Scientist Jessica Ray presented a biological inventory slide presentation of the various species of grasses/meadows, butterflies and birds found in the Township. RVCC Staff Scientist Rebecca Buczynski gave an overview of shared goals and recommendations including invasive species management.

Discussion was also held on meadow management burns for consideration in the future.

Dr. Kelly stated that he will work on a priority list with Julia Allen, John Klotz and Chair Huelsebusch and present to the board at the next meeting in February.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails:** Chris John stated that he will review the spreadsheet of trail projects and work on prioritizing them.
- 2) **Tree Giveaway:** Jonathan Heller stated that the tree order was placed with NJ Dept of Forestry. Approximately 2,300 trees will be ready for pickup in April. Chair Hulsebusch stated that the yearly giveaway will need to be well planned due to the current COVID situation.

- 3) **Volunteer Calendar:** Chair Hulsebusch stated that during the February meeting, the Board will focus on the 2021 calendar for scheduling trails, volunteer sessions, and meadow management.
- 4) **Videos/Website:** Dr. Kelly stated that he would like to post aerial drone videos of specific fields and meadows to the Township website. These videos would be used for public outreach and information.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: No comments

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Neil Hendrickson stated that he would like to schedule a deer management program meeting for the near future. Neil also gave the Board some brief information on leaf composting and has reached out to the NJ Leaf Composting Council. Neil will update with more information at a future meeting. Jonathan Heller stated that he would like to invite Amy Switlik (Clinton Township Town Council) to a future meeting to discuss collaboration.

ADJOURN: Adam Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Klotz, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter