

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024

PRESENT:

MEMBER	JAN 3	FEB 7	MAR 13	APR 3	MAY 1	JUN 12	AUG 7	SEP 4	OCT 2	NOV 6
Juergen Huelsebusch, Chair	X	X		X						
Emanuel Bola, Vice Chair	X	X		X						
Julia Allen	X	X		X						
Thomas Davitt	X	X		X						
Neil Hendrickson	X			X						
Christopher John	X	X		X						
Adam Mueller				X						
Mario Orlandi	X	X		X						
Anne Owen	X	X		X						
Ryan Dunn, 1 st Alternate	X	X		X						
John Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X		X						

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Doug Vornlocker, Jerry Cook, Brian Skowronek

Chair Huelsebusch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM announcing all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised. All board members introduced themselves for the benefit of new members of the board and the public.

COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Communication:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that info on the Barrettstown Joy Farm acquisition has been posted on a slide in the municipal building foyer and on social media.
- 2) **Event Updates:** Chair Huelsebusch mentioned the upcoming Dale Haver Memorial dedication on May 4th.
- 3) **Open Space Walks:** John Klotz stated that the next open space walk will be held on April 21st on Pleasant Run Greenway. John stated this walk will be held in conjunction with Readington Recreation and details will be posted on the Township website soon.

- 4) **Volunteer Sessions:** Chris John stated that he is planning the sessions, however, no definite dates yet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Emanuel Bola made a motion to approve the February 7th minutes, seconded by Anne Owen, motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that the Township received grant funding for the six (6) acre James property.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the repair work on the dam located in Deer Path Park is on hold due to much larger unanticipated repairs. Permits are being filed and work will resume in the Fall.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** nothing to report.
- 4) **WaterWatch Update:** Mario Orlandi stated that the annual Stream Clean-up, in collaboration with Raritan Headwaters, will be held on Sat., April 20th. Mario spoke about possible changes for stream clean-up events in the future. Mario stated that a new program is currently being implemented with Readington Schools for the Fall. The program will include 4th grade students collecting data during scheduled outdoor walks.
- 5) **Township Updates:**
 - a. **Dale Haver Trail Dedication:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the dedication of the Dale Haver Memorial Greenway Trail will be held on May 4th. Chair Huelsebusch asked for suggestions on a location to place a dedication marker on the trail.
 - b. **Open Space Trust Fund:** Chair Huelsebusch discussed the monies in the trust fund and recent requests from the Township to use the monies for infrastructure and maintenance versus open space preservation projects/materials. Mario Orlandi made a motion to support the original intent of the Open Space ordinance as written and recommend to the Township Committee to utilize trust fund monies for open space initiatives. Seconded by Emanuel Bola, motion carried.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen stated that the next trails meeting will be held on April 25th. Anne stated that trail clearing was recently done on Pleasant Run Greenway, Summer Road, and Round Mountain. Anne also stated that “No ATV” signs need to be posted at Stickney Museum and Dobozyński property.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Stewardship:** Chair Huelsebusch introduced Doug Vornlocker who will be working part time in Environmental Stewardship for the Township and working closely with Dr. Jay Kelly. Doug spoke on his environmental education and background in emergency management. Doug also stated that he will be overseeing and coordinating with RVCC interns on various environmental projects in the Township.
- 2) **Tree Seedling Give-away:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that the tree seedlings for the upcoming give-away on April 6th will be arriving this week. Neil Hendrickson went over the procedure for labeling the trees and distributing them at the event. This year the event will be held at Pickell Park instead of the Municipal Building parking lot.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Thomas Davitt stated that there continues to be a trash issue with commercial businesses leaving their ads/promotions in plastic bags with small rocks at the end of residential driveways. Thomas stated that he has spoken with the Township Zoning Official, however, this continues to be a problem and wanted advice on who to speak with about enforcing this issue. Discussion on various ways to address this.

ADJOURN: Adam Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emanuel Bola, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter