

Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 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		X				
Emanuel Bola, Vice Chair	X	X		X		X				
Julia Allen	X	X		X		X				
Thomas Davitt	X	X		X		X				
Neil Hendrickson	X			X						
Christopher John	X	X		X		X				
Adam Mueller				X		X				
Mario Orlandi	X	X		X						
Anne Owen	X	X		X		X				
Ryan Dunn, 1 st Alternate	X	X		X						
John Klotz, 2nd Alternate	X	X		X						

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Brian Skowronek, Doug Vornlocker, Lisa Routel

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 the upcoming open space walk has been posted on a slide in the municipal building foyer and on social media.
- 2) **Event Updates:** Nothing to report
- 3) **Open Space Walks:** Julia Allen stated that the next open space walk will be held on June 16th on Cushetunk Mountain. Julia stated that the next walk will be held on July 21st potentially on Forest Hill depending on the weather.
- 4) **Volunteer Sessions:** Chris John stated that 50 trees were recently planted at the Vislocky property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Emanuel Bola made a motion to approve the April 3rd minutes, seconded by Julia Allen, motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chair Huelsebusch stated he received a request from local Scouts to install additional kestrel boxes. Chair Huelsebusch also stated that he received an inquiry about a possible land donation.

REPORTS:

- 1) **Farmland Preservation / Green Acres:** Julia Allen stated that a current application is being held up by the State due to an update to the protocol for appraisals. The landowner is waiting for the final results on this update. Chair Huelsebusch updated the Board on the latest land acquisitions and presented updated maps of the properties.
- 2) **Hunterdon County Parks / OSAB:** Nothing to report.
- 3) **Environmental Commission Update:** Nothing to report.
- 4) **WaterWatch Update:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that WaterWatch will have a booth at the upcoming Township Summer Fest on June 18th in Summer Rd. Park.
- 5) **Township Updates:**
 - a. **Dale Haver Trail:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that markers need to be placed for clearer direction on the trail. Discussion on implementing this in the summer.
 - b. **Drone Footage:** Adam Mueller stated that due to the cancellation of the Memorial Day Parade, monies are left over for implementing drone footage. Discussion held on which trails to record. Chair Huelsebusch will contact the drone operator.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trails Subcommittee:** Anne Owen stated that the next trails meeting will be held on August 29th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Trail Hikes:** Chair Huelsebusch stated that there are preliminary plans to coordinate quarterly trail hikes with Readington Recreation. These hikes will not conflict with the monthly Open Space Walks. More information to follow. Chair Huelsebusch stated that he will work on updating the trail maps.
- 2) **Stewardship:** Doug Vornlocker updated the board on site progress. Doug stated that he and two (2) interns conducted monitoring on the Chambersbrook, Holland Brook, and Bloys restoration sites. Discussion on vegetative growth and difficulty in accessing the trails, tree tubes growth, and clearing the undergrowth. Doug also stated that he did a site visit to Forest Hill with Robert Becker. Discussion on the deer enclosure and the

invasive growth inside the fencing, the condition of the fencing, and tree specimens that are present. Discussion on stewardship projects with Township 4th graders – more information to follow at a future meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Brian Skowronek stated that the deer exclosures on his property are doing great and, therefore, he has limited invasives.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD: Thomas Davitt stated his concern with lawn crews spraying weed killer along the road and the effect on local waterways.

ADJOURN: Adam Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emanuel Bola, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg A. Slutter