

**Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes
February 4, 2025**

Present:

MEMBER	JAN	FEB 4th	MAR 5th	APR 2nd	MAY 7th	JUN 4th	AUG 6th	SEP 4th	OCT 1st	NOV 5th
Juergen Huelsebusch, Chair		X								
Anne Owen, Vice Chair		X								
Emanuel Bola		X								
Julia Allen		X								
Thomas Davitt		X								
Christopher John		X								
Adam Mueller		X								
Lisa Routel		X								
Brian Skowronek		X								
Ryan Dunn, 1 st Alternate		---								
David Owen, 2nd Alternate		X								

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: John Klotz

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Adam Mueller moved to approve November 6, 2024 minutes, and the motion was seconded by Anne Owen.

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS:

- 1) **Open Space Preservation:** The Green Acres 2025 application was completed and submitted to Green Acres for several properties for Readington Township. The development of a five-year plan was discussed and will be worked on. There are two properties that are under consideration for open space in the next six months.

- 2) **Stewardship Committee Update:** SADC sent out a card indicating farmland valuation has a new procedure for appraisal. That means funding is more attractive with the new process, but this has not been finalized and is pending a final vote at this time by SADC.
- 3) **Agricultural Land Advisory Committee Update:** The first Ag Land Meeting is March 12, 2025.
- 4) **Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee:** January meeting was cancelled. There were no applications or actionable items. The March 24, 2025 meeting may have two Readington properties to review at that time.
- 5) **Environmental Commission Updates:** No report.
- 6) **Water Watch/Water Shed Updates:** Discussed site visits/cleanup sites for April.
- 7) **Readington Township Updates:** Administrative changes were discussed.

OLD AND ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Subcommittees – Discussed crossover and collaboration efforts.
2. OSAB Stewardship Update: A stewardship group was formed in collaboration with EC members that will meet every two months. The stewardship committee's main functions will be to assist with administrative work, acquiring grants, and future planning.
3. OSAB Subcommittee Update – The trails committee discussed planning future trails. Parks/Trees committee will deal with planting trees in various locations. These groups will be more tactical and hands-on and update the monthly OSAB session.
4. Monthly walks were discussed. Adding hikes and additional walks were all suggestions. School walks were also discussed, and better planning was a topic; there is a fourth grade walk as well as a seventh grade walk.
5. EC received a grant and will be planning 20 thousand trees over time on Holland Brook Headwaters Meadows. The effort was discussed and will be a multiyear project on the property. Volunteers will be needed to manage this effort, schedule plantings, spacing, education on how to plant a tree properly. Details pertaining to this effort are being worked out and a volunteer manager is going to be needed to focus on and drive this effort.
6. Trail Update: Most trails are in good shape. The river trail is open. Deer path was frozen. Issues and ongoing projects were discussed. Volunteer hours were suggested to be highlighted. Planning tree plantings at trails along with funding was discussed.
7. Deer Management was discussed, and our township deer management numbers are at a record high. The program has been extremely successful in 2024/2025. A final update is expected by early March.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

John Klotz was present expressed interest in subcommittees as well as monthly walks.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

ADJOURNMENT: Juergen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Manny, followed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Russo
Advisory Board Secretary