

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Agenda

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### CALL TO ORDER

In compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act”, notice has been given that the Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission conducts its regular business meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the main meeting room of the municipal building. Notice of this meeting was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the monthly agendas are posted on the bulletin board of the municipal building.

### STANDARD AGENDA

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
<b>Kickoff, Roll Call &amp; Connecting Moment</b>	Call meeting to order and take roll call.	10 Min
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	Review and approval of March Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Newman, Mr. Mickley and Ms. Koch who were not present at the March meeting.	10 Min
<b>General Admin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readouts from Deer Management Workshops</li> <li>• Denton Property Preservation Update (Block and Lot?)</li> <li>• Hickory Run Road Property Preservation Update</li> <li>• Buffalo Hollow Road Property Preservation Update</li> </ul>	15 Min
<b>Newsletter</b>	<p>Summer newsletter deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticide Use (Lawler/Petzinger)</li> <li>• Red Mill Property/Cleanup (Duckworth/Historians)</li> </ul> <p>Backlog: Proper Use of Pesticides and Herbicides, Organic Methods, Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p>	5 Min
<b>Correspondence</b>	<p>Acknowledge and share any formal correspondence received by EOSC chair or informal correspondence received by EOSC members. All correspondence when possible is scanned and stored digitally in a public access Google Drive folder at <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwalU4TGc">https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwalU4TGc</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	0 Min
<b>Focus Topics</b>	<p>A select set of topics that require deeper discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Red Mill Race Preserve</i> Cleanup Day               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Property Letters and Resulting Conversation</li> <li>○ NJWSA Contact and Property Maintenance Agreements</li> <li>○ Discussion with the Rachels</li> <li>○ Discussion with Jack Gale</li> <li>○ Allen Barlow meeting</li> <li>○ Patrick Eckard meeting</li> <li>○ Approval of “Red Mill Race Preserve” Name</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	40 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Volunteer Status</li> </ul>	
<b>Reports</b>	<p>Provide updates on the following standard topics below; any pre-submitted updates are included in <b>Attachment 1</b>.</p> <p><u>Program Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Litter Cleanup (Naccarato)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Well Testing (Koch)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> LT Fall Fest (Duckworth)</li> </ul> <p><u>Project Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> NJ Water Supply Property Agreement Refresh (Mickley)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Red Mill Property Clean-up Event</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pt. Mountain/Teetertown Link</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 17 - Partial Preservation “Goracy Trail”</li> </ul> <p><u>Parcel Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 24, Lot 16 - Hickory Run Rd. DEP Preservation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 35, Lot 88 - Preservation “Red Mill Road”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 10, Lot 41 - Hagedorn/Voorhees Link</li> </ul> <p><u>Administrative Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> EOOSC Budget (Duckworth)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Planning Board (Duckworth)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Highlands Act (Duckworth)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Musconetcong Watershed Association (Henriksen)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Raritan Headwaters Association (Lawler)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Jersey (Duckworth)</li> </ul>	10 Min

## Attachment 1: Reports

### Sustainable Jersey

As per Mr. Duckworth on 09-Apr-2018, he has begun to compile information for the overdue grant report and had asked treasurer, JoAnn Fascinelli, for an update on the grant account to determine if there is money that has still not been spent. As of March 9<sup>th</sup>, there is \$425.66 remaining of the original \$2000 capacity building grant money. This must be expended prior to completing the grant report. Some may be used to support the Red Mill Race Preserve cleanup event. Mr. Duckworth plans to have a draft report ready for EOOSC review prior to the May meeting, assuming all the funds are spent.

### Block 36, Lot 17 - Partial Preservation “Goracy Trail”

As per Ms. Hardy on 09-Apr-2018, the land owner, Vi Giaquinto, is ready to sign the contract. Mayor Schmidt will follow up with the lawyers to execute the contract, at which point Township Committee will proceed with the process of appointing a surveyor.

### Musconetcong Watershed Association

As per Mr. Henriksen on 09-Apr-2018, a reminder of the upcoming MWA events: 1) river cleanup on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2) native plant sale on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, and 3) Run for the River on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Minutes

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### ROLL CALL

EOSC Member	Role	Attendance
Adam Duckworth	Chairman, Planning Board Liaison	X
Sharon Petzinger	Member	X
Warren Newman	Member	X
Erik Jan Henriksen	Member	X
Nancy Lawler	Member	X
Sharon Hardy	Member	X
Adam Mickley	Member	No
Kathy Koch	Alternate 1	X
Marty Collett	Alternate 2	No

### MEETING MINUTES

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
<b>Kickoff, Roll Call &amp; Connecting Moment</b>	<p>Call meeting to order and take roll call.</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Meeting was called to order at 7:05PM. In addition to EOSC members noted above, Mayor Schmidt and Committeeman Laul were in attendance.</p>	10 Min
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	<p>Review and approval of March Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Newman, Mr. Mickley and Ms. Koch who were not present at the March meeting.</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve Meeting Minutes from March. The motion was made by Mr. Henriksen, seconded by Ms. Petzinger and unanimously approved.</p>	10 Min
<b>General Admin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readouts from Deer Management Workshops</li> <li>• Denton Property Preservation Update (Block and Lot?)</li> <li>• Hickory Run Road Property Preservation Update</li> <li>• Buffalo Hollow Road Property Preservation Update</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Ms. Lawler attended the NJ DEP Fish and Wildlife event titled <i>Managing Deer in Suburban and Agricultural Landscapes</i> on March 19<sup>th</sup>. She stated that is was a great session and the division has a representative that can come and advise on deer population management; they can do a presentation for us if we want. Ms. Lawler stated that it would be valuable for the police department to provide the locations and quantities of deer strikes in the Township as that would give us a feel for the scale of the problem and those numbers could be used to estimate the deer population. Committeeman Laul took an action to follow-up with the police department to obtain that data.</p>	15 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
	<p>Ms. Lawler then discussed the risks of deer overpopulation. She said there is an uptick in Lyme’s Disease and it is a serious problem in Hunterdon County; while deer are not hosts, they are the buses that move the ticks around. Ms. Hardy added that Lyme’s Disease is not the only disease that ticks carry. Ms. Petzinger stated that in addition to disease risks, if we want to tackle invasive species issues in the Township then we must address deer management first. It will be impossible to remove invasives and cultivate natives with a deer overpopulation that immediately eats the natives.</p> <p>Ms. Koch asked if anyone at the session spoke about preventing homeowners from feeding deer. Ms. Lawler stated that the first thing we should do is an ordinance against feeding deer except for baiting for hunting. Ms. Koch asked how we estimate our deer population. Ms. Petzinger stated that in addition to the police data that Committeeman Laul is going to get for us, there are two ways to estimate, spotlighting and surveying. For a Township our size it is suggested that we choose a portion of the Township on which to focus and start small before trying to tackle the whole Township. She stated that Hunterdon County does already cull deer on their properties.</p> <p>Mr. Schmidt asked if the increase in coyote presence has made a dent in the deer population. Ms. Lawler stated not very much as coyotes don’t eat many deer and there are many other smaller animals that coyotes eat. Ms. Petzinger stated that one of the easiest things to do is to encourage farmers to get depredation permits, which allow them to hunt year round, remove as many deer as they want and invite other hunters to their property assuming they are listed in the application and successfully complete a background check. We can work to encourage more hunter friendly attitudes in general and help connect people that like venison but don’t hunt with hunters who could provide a deer.</p> <p>Ms. Petzinger stated that before we engage anyone for help in creating a deer management plan, we should survey the Township to understand the perspectives of our residents – whether they are for, against or indifferent. Ms. Lawler suggested we include the survey question in the tax bill. Ms. Hardy suggested we also reach out to farmers and stated that this reinforces the need to reinvigorate the ag board. Ms. Petzinger stated that if we really wanted to tackle deer overpopulation, it would likely take a dedicated volunteer to make it successful.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth closed the topic and moved on to updates on potential preservation targets. Mr. Schmidt stated there were no new updates on the Denton property nor Hickory Run Road. He did state that there has been further discussion with the land owner of the Buffalo Hollow Road property but nothing meaningful to report.</p>	

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<b>Newsletter</b>	<p>Summer newsletter deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticide Use (Lawler/Petzinger)</li> <li>• Red Mill Property/Cleanup (Duckworth/Historians)</li> </ul> <p>Backlog: Proper Use of Pesticides and Herbicides, Organic Methods, Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth reminded the team of the two newsletter articles to which we committed for the summer newsletter. Ms. Petzinger stated that she will be at the <i>2018 Invasive Species Conference</i> on Wednesday and is planning to start on the article after that. Ms. Lawler will focus on pesticide approaches that don't work if Ms. Petzinger is focusing on proper application.</p>	5 Min
<b>Correspondence</b>	<p>Acknowledge and share any formal correspondence received by EOSC chair or informal correspondence received by EOSC members. All correspondence when possible is scanned and stored digitally in a public access Google Drive folder at <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwalU4TGc">https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwalU4TGc</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth stated that he did not receive any correspondence and asked if anyone else had. Mayor Schmidt stated that Hunterdon Land Trust requested a \$500 donation and that he would forward on the letter to Mr. Duckworth. The team discussed the donation request and happily supported a donation to the Land Trust who has provided a great service to Lebanon Township preservation efforts. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to support a donation of \$500 to Hunterdon Land Trust from Lebanon Township to be approved by Township Committee. Ms. Lawler made the motion, Ms. Koch seconded and it was unanimously approved. Ms. Petzinger abstained.</p>	0 Min
<b>Focus Topics</b>	<p>A select set of topics that require deeper discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Red Mill Race Preserve</i> Cleanup Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Property Letters and Resulting Conversation</li> <li>○ NJWSA Contact and Property Maintenance Agreements</li> <li>○ Discussion with the Rachels</li> <li>○ Discussion with Jack Gale</li> <li>○ Allen Barlow meeting</li> <li>○ Patrick Eckard meeting</li> <li>○ Approval of "Red Mill Race Preserve" Name</li> <li>○ Volunteer Status</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth briefly summarized the email exchanges with the landowners of the neighboring parcels that have the conservation and public access easements. Mayor Schmidt stated that he did contact NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) and they are very supportive of our use of the public access easement. Mayor Schmidt did note that the northern part of the property is EIFP encumbrance. Mr. Duckworth stated that he checked the NJWSA Maintenance Agreement and these parcels were not included. Mayor Schmidt acknowledged this was an unusual situation where a third party has purchased a conservation and public access easement on private property and this is one of the few examples of that arrangement. Ms. Hardy stated that she spoke with the neighbors across the street,</p>	40 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
	<p>the Rachels, and they encouraged us to park in their driveways for our event. The question was raised regarding historical artifacts that might be uncovered during the event and it was suggested that the Historians Committee make the call on who gets to keep any artifacts. Ms. Lawler stated that she will meet at the property with Allen Barlow before the event. Mr. Barlow has a pretty high-level herbicide license and does use toxic chemicals. However, he stated that he is looking for safer, non-toxic ways to control invasives and may want to work with us to experiment using those. Mayor Schmidt asked if we should inform the landowners across the Spruce Run about the event. Mr. Henriksen said that is Hall Tree Farm and he was already planning to reach out to them. Mr. Duckworth said that he would plan to purchase some basic tools with some remaining Sustainable Jersey grant money. Ms. Petzinger said that pointy sticks or grabbers would be good to have for litter cleanup.</p>	
<p><b>Reports</b></p>	<p>Provide updates on the following standard topics below; any pre-submitted updates are included in <b>Attachment 1</b>.</p> <p><u>Program Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Litter Cleanup (Naccarato)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Well Testing (Koch)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> LT Fall Fest (Duckworth)</li> </ul> <p><u>Project Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> NJ Water Supply Property Agreement Refresh (Mickley)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Red Mill Property Clean-up Event</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pt. Mountain/Teetertown Link</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 17 - Partial Preservation "Goracy Trail"</li> </ul> <p><u>Parcel Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 24, Lot 16 - Hickory Run Rd. DEP Preservation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 35, Lot 88 - Preservation "Red Mill Road"</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 10, Lot 41 - Hagedorn/Voorhees Link</li> </ul> <p><u>Administrative Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> EOSC Budget (Duckworth)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Planning Board (Duckworth)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Highlands Act (Duckworth)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Musconetcong Watershed Association (Henriksen)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Raritan Headwaters Association (Lawler)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Jersey (Duckworth)</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth acknowledged that updates had for items marked above were included with the agenda. He closed the formal agenda and proceeded to a round robin for any updates or closing remarks from the team. Mayor Schmidt stated that he heard the Diamond Aerosol property had sold and asked if anyone knew who the new landowner was. No one knew.</p> <p>Mayor Schmidt provided an update on the Pt. Mountain/Teetertown Link preservation effort. He stated the house slated for demolition was demolished awhile ago but additional documentation may be required as there may not be sufficient documentation to certify that any underground storage tanks have been removed. It is not believed there ever was any but it is not clear in the historical documentation; ground-penetrating radar may be required. A May closing is still the target.</p>	<p>10 Min</p>

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
	<p>Mayor Schmidt stated that a few small properties along Rt. 31 are behind in taxes and asked if anyone had any additional information on some of them since they border the Spruce Run. No one had any information. Ms. Petzinger stated that Sharon Pretel might be a good resource to reach out to. Mr. Newman stated there is an online phone directory to find contact information for NJ DEP employees.</p> <p>Ms. Koch stated that well testing brochures were handed out. Mr. Duckworth said he would provide the key if needed. Ms. Koch said she could use some help during the drop off time on that Monday.</p> <p>Mayor Schmidt reminded the team to start thinking about open space signage.</p> <p>Ms. Lawler stated that there have been complaints about people dumping in the parking lot at Point Mountain South. Mr. Duckworth asked if EOSC should consider logging a complaint with the LT police department. Committeeman Laul to ask Jack Gale about dumping or other illicit activity that may have been reported.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:42PM. Mr. Henriksen made the motion, Mr. Newman seconded and unanimously approved.</p>	