

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Agenda

May 7<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 first 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 April Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Collett and Mr. Mickley who were not present at the April meeting.	10 Min
<b>General Admin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	15 Min
<b>Newsletter</b>	Summer newsletter deadline is May 1 <sup>st</sup> . Articles on the docket include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticide Use (Lawler/Petzinger)</li> <li>• Red Mill Property/Cleanup (Duckworth/Historians)</li> <li>• Litter Cleanup (Naccarato)</li> </ul> Backlog: Proper Use of Pesticides and Herbicides, Organic Methods, Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History	5 Min
<b>Correspondence</b>	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> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater Wetlands Application – Notice to Neighboring Landowners – Block 53, Lot 20; 389 Penwell Road</li> </ul>	0 Min
<b>Focus Topics</b>	A select set of topics that require deeper discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Preservation Efforts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Miquin/Red Mill Link” Block 36, Lot 39 – Proposed Motion</li> <li>○ “SADC Hagedorn Connection” Block 30, Lot 20 – Proposed Motion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Red Mill Race Preserve               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Read out and thanks</li> <li>○ Scheduling and focus of follow-on event</li> <li>○ Next steps with “Hendra property”</li> <li>○ Bird survey</li> <li>○ Picnic table plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	40 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plans for bamboo? Allen Barlow update</li> <li>○ Management Plan</li> <li>● Conservation &amp; Sustainability Report/Infographic</li> <li>● Deer management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deer strike data</li> </ul> </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>Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Litter Cleanup (Naccarato)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Well Testing (Koch)</li> </ul> <p><u>Projects</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> </ul> <p><u>Township Open Space</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 35, Lot 88 (Red Mill Race Preserve)</li> </ul> <p><u>Active Preservation Efforts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 17 – “Goracy Trail”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 24, Lot 16 – “Hickory Run Rd. DEP Preservation”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 10, Lot 41 – “Buffalo Hollow Hagedorn/Voorhees Link”</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 30, Lot 20 – “SADC Hagedorn Connection”</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 39 – “Miquin/Red Mill Link”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Parcels – “Pt. Mountain/Teetertown Link”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 57, Lot 13 – “Denton Property”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 36 – “Hoffman Estate”</li> </ul> <p><u>Administrative</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 type="checkbox"/> Musconetcong Watershed Association (Henriksen)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Raritan Headwaters Association (Lawler)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Jersey (Duckworth)</li> </ul>	10 Min

## Attachment 1: Reports

### Block 36, Lot 17 - “Goracy Trail”

As per Ms. Hardy on 06-May-2018, it was expected that the landowner and her lawyer would have moved forward with the contract during the past month but we have not heard from them. We will continue to follow up.

### Block 30, Lot 20 – “Hagedorn Connection”

As per Mr. Duckworth on 07-May-2018, Township Committee discussed a farmland preservation application for this parcel on 02-May-2018. During the public comment period, I reminded Township Committee that this parcel is a preservation priority and reiterated EOSC support for its preservation as farmland. However, I also highlighted that this parcel would provide connectivity between two neighboring parcels with only a small right of way.

Township Committee discussed this and made a motion to support myself and/or Marc Laul to engage the landowner for discussion. A proposed letter to the landowner is below for discussion and approval by EOSC.

Christine Spiniello  
4 Echo Lane  
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

Dear Ms. Spiniello,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission (EOSC). Notification of your application for farmland preservation was recently discussed at Lebanon Township Committee on May 2nd. It was wonderful to learn that you're seeking to preserve your farm for future generations. The open space and agricultural character of our community is indeed what drives so many of us to continue to call this place home. We wholeheartedly support your application and commend you for your commitment to preserving our agricultural heritage.

In addition to farmland preservation, our Township has been actively promoting open space connectivity. As you may know, your land borders state preserved land on either side. There is an opportunity to connect these parcels with a short right of way along the back boundary of your property. I've included a map to illustrate this. With as little as 0.2 acres, there is the potential to greatly enhance the open space connectivity in our Township and we believe we can do this without any impact on your farmland preservation plans. But this would have to be discussed prior to acceptance of farmland preservation status; once it's preserved as farmland, this connectivity becomes impossible. We hope you are willing to discuss this opportunity further. Either I or Township Committeeman, Marc Laul, will be reaching out to you to discuss this further. Or you can contact me directly at your convenience at 732-616-5181. Thank you for your consideration.

**Block 36, Lot 39 – “Miquin/Red Mill Link”**

As per Mr. Duckworth on 07-May-2018, it has been brought to EOSC's attention that the landowner of Block 36, Lot 39 is actively pursuing farmland preservation status. This parcel is a preservation priority and strategic link for trail connectivity. The process appears to be far along with the state agricultural department and I am investigating options to pursue some type of public access rights for trail use. A message has been left with Stefanie Miller of SADC. EOSC should discuss a motion to support this. A draft motion is below.

**Whereas** the landowner of Block 36, Lot 39, is actively pursuing farmland preservation status, and

**Whereas** Block 36, Lot 39, was identified as a preservation priority in the 2017 update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan due to its agricultural value, proximity to existing open space and contribution to trail connectivity, and

**Whereas** the parcel provides strategic open space connectivity between Miquin Woods and Memorial Park (via Red Mill Road),

A motion is requested to strongly support the landowner's application for farmland preservation and, if the landowner and Township Committee are agreeable, the pursuit of public access rights along a section of the parcel to enable trail connectivity between Miquin Woods and Red Mill Road.

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission Minutes

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## ROLL CALL

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

## 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> In addition to EOSC members noted above, Mayor Schmidt, Committeeman Laul and Mr. George Zack.</p>	10 Min
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	<p>Review and approval of April Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Collett and Mr. Mickley who were not present at the April meeting.</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve April Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Mr. Henriksen, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p>	10 Min
<b>General Admin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth stated there were no general admin topics to discuss.</p>	15 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
<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> <li>• Litter Cleanup (Naccarato)</li> </ul> <p>Backlog: Organic Methods, Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth acknowledged the three articles that were submitted and thanked the authors, Ms. Naccarato (not present), Ms. Petzinger and Ms. Lawler (also not present). He stated that the article about Red Mill Race Preserve did not include any history about the property but that would be a good follow-up article.</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>• Freshwater Wetlands Application – Notice to Neighboring Landowners – Block 53, Lot 20; 389 Penwell Road</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth stated that he received one communication regarding a septic system repair along Penwell road. Ms. Petzinger reviewed the letter and stated she had no concerns. Most any repair of a septic system is worth the tradeoff of impact to the neighboring wetlands area as it's better than a malfunctioning septic system.</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>• Active Preservation Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Miquin/Red Mill Link” Block 36, Lot 39 – Proposed Motion</li> <li>○ “SADC Hagedorn Connection” Block 30, Lot 20 – Proposed Motion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Red Mill Race Preserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Read out and thanks</li> <li>○ Scheduling and focus of follow-on event</li> <li>○ Next steps with “Hendra property”</li> <li>○ Bird survey</li> <li>○ Picnic table plans</li> <li>○ Plans for bamboo? Allen Barlow update</li> <li>○ Management Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Conservation &amp; Sustainability Report/Infographic</li> <li>• Deer management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deer strike data</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth briefed the team on a trail connectivity opportunity related to Block 36, Lot 39, which could provide an opportunity to connect Miquin Woods with Red Mill Road (and subsequently Memorial Park). He stated a copy of a proposed motion was included with the agenda and asked the team for feedback. The team was supportive of the motion and only suggested to remove the word “strongly” from it as it did not provide any additional value. Mr. Duckworth asked for the motion as stated below. Mr. Henriksen made the motion, Mr. Collett seconded and it was unanimously approved, except for Ms. Petzinger who abstained.</p>	40 Min

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	<p><b>Whereas</b> the landowner of Block 36, Lot 39, is actively pursuing farmland preservation status, and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> Block 36, Lot 39, was identified as a preservation priority in the 2017 update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan due to its agricultural value, proximity to existing open space and contribution to trail connectivity, and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> the parcel provides strategic open space connectivity between Miquin Woods and Memorial Park (via Red Mill Road),</p> <p>A motion is requested to support the landowner’s application for farmland preservation <u>and</u>, if the landowner and Township Committee are agreeable, the pursuit of public access rights along a section of the parcel to enable trail connectivity between Miquin Woods and Red Mill Road.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth then briefed the team on a second trail-connectivity opportunity (Block 30, Lot 20) related to a recent SADC farmland preservation application that was discussed at the previous Township Committee meeting. The parcel provides an opportunity to connect neighboring parcels in the Hagedorn area. Mr. Duckworth stated a copy of a letter to the landowner was included with the agenda and asked for any feedback. The team was supportive of the letter as is. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve the letter to the landowner with direct follow-up by Mr. Duckworth or Mr. Laul as needed. Ms. Koch made the motion, Mr. Mickley seconded and it was unanimously approved, except for Ms. Petzinger who abstained.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth then introduced the topic of the Red Mill Race Preserve. He thanked everyone for participating and stated that he would like to schedule a follow-on event to continue the work. Mr. Henriksen asked if we could work on the entrance to the mill race next time. Mr. Duckworth agreed and added that he would like to focus on clearing the cement slab area, as well. He asked what dates would be best for the team. After some discussion, July 7<sup>th</sup> was identified as the target date for the next event.</p> <p>Regarding the “Hendra” properties, Mayor Schmidt stated that NJWSA typically uses handheld GPS devices to validate adherence to boundaries during inspections so that seems like it should be good enough for us to verify the boundaries of the public access easement. He stated his first reply to Mr. Cutri-french and Mr. Hendra will be an offer to split the survey if they feel it necessary to more formally mark it out. Mr. Duckworth stated that he would be meeting Patrick Eckard from County Parks to walk the property on May 8<sup>th</sup>. It was asked if Patrick might have a GPS and Mr. Duckworth said that he would ask.</p> <p>Ms. Petzinger stated the bird survey would have to be done between May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup> and that she would try and find some time to do it. Mr. Duckworth then stated that resident, Andy Korfin, generously offered to build a picnic table for the property. Mr. Henriksen agreed to find some picnic table plans to provide to Mr. Korfin.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth then introduced the concept of a “Conservation &amp; Sustainability</p>	

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
	<p>Report”, which would be something like an infographic or PowerPoint presentation that provides an overview of the great sustainability work that the Township has done over the past few years. Ms. Petzinger stated that would be good for grants but suggested it as a fall/winter project. Mayor Schmidt also stated that it would be good for grants. Mr. Duckworth said he would hold off working on that until after the summer.</p> <p>Committeeman Laul shared an overview of deer strike data that he received from the police department. Most reported strikes occurred along route 513. This topic was not discussed in great detail. Mayor Schmidt acknowledged that the county does allow hunting on their properties. Ms. Petzinger reiterated a previous comment she had made that a deer management program would likely require a full-time volunteer position.</p>	

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<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>Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Litter Cleanup (Naccarato)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Well Testing (Koch)</li> </ul> <p><u>Projects</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> </ul> <p><u>Township Open Space</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 35, Lot 88 (Red Mill Race Preserve)</li> </ul> <p><u>Active Preservation Efforts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 17 – “Goracy Trail”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 24, Lot 16 – “Hickory Run Rd. DEP Preservation”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 10, Lot 41 – “Buffalo Hollow Hagedorn/Voorhees Link”</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 30, Lot 20 – “SADC Hagedorn Connection”</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 39 – “Miquin/Red Mill Link”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Parcels – “Pt. Mountain/Teetertown Link”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 57, Lot 13 – “Denton Property”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 36 – “Hoffman Estate”</li> </ul> <p><u>Administrative</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 type="checkbox"/> Musconetcong Watershed Association (Henriksen)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Raritan Headwaters Association (Lawler)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Jersey (Duckworth)</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth prepared to adjourn the meeting and went around the table to see if anyone had any additional topics to discuss.</p> <p>Ms. Petzinger highlighted that there was grant money available for Spruce Run water quality monitoring.</p> <p>Mr. Henriksen stated that water sampling occurred at Point Mountain approximately three weeks ago and that a detailed macroinvertebrate analysis is being done.</p> <p>Ms. Koch highlighted a successful well testing event with 70 kits being sold. She stated that Mr. Newman helped, as well, and was a valuable contributor with his knowledge of water quality.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32. Mr. Henriksen made the motion, Ms. Petzinger seconded and it was unanimously approved.</p>	10 Min