

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

Agenda

June 3rd, 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
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment	Call meeting to order and take roll call.	10 Min
Presentation of Minutes	Review and approval of May Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Newman, Ms. Hardy and Ms. Lawler who were not present at the May meeting.	10 Min
General Admin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Jersey Grant Report Submission 	15 Min
Newsletter	Fall newsletter deadline is August 1 st . Articles on the docket include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No articles identified Backlog: Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History	5 Min
Correspondence	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 https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwalU4TGc . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	0 Min
Focus Topics	A select set of topics that require deeper discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Mill Race Preserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reminder July 7th for 2nd event ○ Next steps with “Hendra property” ○ Bird survey ○ Picnic table plans ○ Plans for bamboo? Allen Barlow update ○ Management Plan 	40 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
Reports	<p>Provide updates on the following standard topics below; any pre-submitted updates are included in Attachment 1.</p> <p><u>Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Cleanup (Naccarato) <input type="checkbox"/> Well Testing (Koch) <p><u>Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NJ Water Supply Property Agreement Refresh (Mickley) <input type="checkbox"/> Red Mill Property Clean-up Event <p><u>Township Open Space</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Block 35, Lot 88 (Red Mill Race Preserve) <p><u>Active Preservation Efforts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 17 – “Goracy Trail” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 24, Lot 16 – “Hickory Run Rd. DEP Preservation” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 10, Lot 41 – “Buffalo Hollow Hagedorn/Voorhees Link” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 30, Lot 20 – “SADC Hagedorn Connection” <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 39 – “Miquin/Red Mill Link” <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Parcels – “Pt. Mountain/Teetertown Link” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 57, Lot 13 – “Denton Property” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 36 – “Hoffman Estate” <p><u>Administrative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> EOSC Budget (Duckworth) <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Board (Duckworth) <input type="checkbox"/> Highlands Act (Duckworth) <input type="checkbox"/> Musconetcong Watershed Association (Henriksen) <input type="checkbox"/> Raritan Headwaters Association (Lawler) <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Jersey (Duckworth) 	10 Min

Attachment 1: Reports

Block 36, Lot 17 - “Goracy Trail”

As per Ms. Hardy on 03-Jun-2018, the landowner continues to work with her attorney and surveyor to organize her affairs. She remains supportive of the project and we will continue to follow up with her.

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

As per Mr. Duckworth on 04-Jun-2018, he states that considering the discussion at the last EOSC meeting, including a motion in support of potential trail connectivity via Block 36, Lot 39, the EOSC should consider sending a letter to the landowner to notify them of that motion of support. A proposed letter to the landowner is below.

Tom and Heidi McKee
22 Red Mill Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

Dear Mr. and Mrs. McKee,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission (EOSC) and as a follow-up to our phone conversation a few weeks ago. At our May EOSC meeting, your pursuit of farmland preservation status was discussed and we wanted to take an opportunity to commend you for your efforts in preserving 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 whole-heartedly support your application and thank you for your commitment to preserving our agricultural heritage. To formalize our support, we unanimously approved a motion at our May meeting, a copy of which I've included with this letter for your awareness.

In addition to farmland preservation, our Township has been actively promoting open space connectivity. As you already know, your land borders county preserved land, Miquin Woods. There is a rare opportunity to connect Miquin Woods with Red Mill Road, subsequently providing access to Memorial Park with a short walk along the road. With as little as ~0.3 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, assuming you are at a point in the process where this is still feasible. This would have to be accomplished 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. Or you can contact me directly at your convenience at 732-616-5181 or ltenv@lebtwp.net. Thank you for your consideration.

Copy of motion unanimously approved by the Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission on May 7th at their regular meeting:

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 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

June 3rd, 2018

ROLL CALL

EOSC Member	Role	Attendance
Adam Duckworth	Chairman, Planning Board Liaison	X
Sharon Petzinger	Member	No
Warren Newman	Member	X
Erik Jan Henriksen	Member	X
Nancy Lawler	Member	X
Sharon Hardy	Member	X (7:40)
Adam Mickley	Member	X (7:30)
Kathy Koch	Alternate 1	X
Marty Collett	Alternate 2	No

MEETING MINUTES

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment	<p>Call meeting to order and take roll call.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. In addition to EOSC members noted above, George Zack was in attendance in the audience.</p>	10 Min
Presentation of Minutes	<p>Review and approval of May Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Newman, Ms. Hardy and Ms. Lawler who were not present at the May meeting.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth asked if there were any comments on the May Meeting Minutes. There were none. A motion was made by Mr. Henriksen to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p>	10 Min
General Admin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Jersey Grant Report Submission <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth informed everyone that the Grant Report for Sustainable Jersey has been submitted. He stated that the report has been overdue for some time and he received a final deadline of May 30, 2018, from Sustainable Jersey; if the report were not submitted by this date then the \$2000 grant would have to be returned. Mr. Duckworth said he prepared the report, briefly shared it on screen for EOSC members to get a feel for the content of the report and stated he would be happy to share the full report with anyone interested. He said Mayor Schmidt did review it and sign off on it before it was submitted. Mr. Newman thanked Mr. Duckworth for all the effort it took to put the report together.</p> <p>In being reminded of the Farm Passport Programs that were documented in the grant report, Ms. Lawler suggested we focus on establishing an agriculture board. Mr. Newman stated that we do have ag board but the team did not believe it has</p>	15 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
	<p>been very active. It was suggested to speak to Mayor Schmidt.</p> <p>Ms. Lawler stated that she was speaking to one of the owners of Old Mill Pond Farm and learned that they were going to Easton to use a commercial kitchen there. She asked why our residents would have to go all the way to another state for kitchen when the Township has multiple kitchens that might be used, such as the Squad Building or the firehouse. Mr. Newman also suggested that there may be kitchens available at local churches. Ms. Lawler asked if we had a Town Health Officer; she thought it might be Doreen Bleck.</p>	
Newsletter	<p>Fall newsletter deadline is August 1st. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No articles identified <p>Backlog: Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth reminded the team of the August 1st deadline for the Fall newsletter and stated no articles were planned at this time. Ms. Koch stated she would summarize the well testing results. Ms. Koch stated that she would also be prepared to write up the history of Red Mill Race Preserve.</p>	5 Min
Correspondence	<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 https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwalU4TGc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth stated that he received no formal correspondence and asked if any others had received correspondence. Mr. Newman stated that he followed up on inquiry from a resident who had questions on their well testing results; he had met this resident during the well test kit pick-up earlier in the spring.</p>	0 Min
Focus Topics	<p>A select set of topics that require deeper discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Mill Race Preserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reminder July 7th for 2nd event ○ Next steps with “Hendra property” ○ Bird survey ○ Picnic table plans ○ Plans for bamboo? Allen Barlow update ○ Management Plan <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth reminded the team that the 2nd Red Mill Race Preserve trail-building event was scheduled for July 7th. Mr. Newman stated that he would not be able to attend. Mr. Duckworth asked Ms. Lawler if she had a chance to speak with Allen Barlow regarding the bamboo. Ms. Lawler stated that Allen Barlow would not be able to provide any advice. It was decided to defer the discussion on how to approach the bamboo grove. Mr. Duckworth stated that he would have a draft management plan for review by the team at the next meeting. It was suggested that Mike Helbing might be a good advisor on a management plan.</p>	40 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
Reports	<p>Provide updates on the following standard topics below; any pre-submitted updates are included in Attachment 1.</p> <p><u>Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Cleanup (Naccarato) <input type="checkbox"/> Well Testing (Koch) <p><u>Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NJ Water Supply Property Agreement Refresh (Mickley) <input type="checkbox"/> Red Mill Property Clean-up Event <p><u>Township Open Space</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Block 35, Lot 88 (Red Mill Race Preserve) <p><u>Active Preservation Efforts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 17 – “Goracy Trail” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 24, Lot 16 – “Hickory Run Rd. DEP Preservation” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 10, Lot 41 – “Buffalo Hollow Hagedorn/Voorhees Link” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 30, Lot 20 – “SADC Hagedorn Connection” <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 39 – “Miquin/Red Mill Link” <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Parcels – “Pt. Mountain/Teetertown Link” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 57, Lot 13 – “Denton Property” <input type="checkbox"/> Block 36, Lot 36 – “Hoffman Estate” <p><u>Administrative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> EOSC Budget (Duckworth) <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Board (Duckworth) <input type="checkbox"/> Highlands Act (Duckworth) <input type="checkbox"/> Musconetcong Watershed Association (Henriksen) <input type="checkbox"/> Raritan Headwaters Association (Lawler) <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Jersey (Duckworth) <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth asked if there were any other updates or discussion topics from the team. There were none. He asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10PM. The motion was made by Mr. Newman, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p>	10 Min