

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission Agenda

August 15th, 2016

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
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment (Adam Duckworth)	Call meeting to order and record attendance.	15 Min
Presentation of Minutes (Adam Duckworth)	Review and approval of July Meeting Minutes.	5 Min
General Admin (Adam Duckworth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	10 Min
Guest Presentation	Township Committeeman, Mike Schmidt, will provide an overview on a proposed ordinance to apply for a grant for additional open space.	20 Min
Guest Presentation	Nick Zemlochenko from the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council will present on risks of deer overpopulations and approaches and opportunities for deer management on town properties.	45 Min
Newsletter	<p>Winter newsletter deadline is November 1st. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>The following were submitted for the fall newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic Workshop (Nancy Lawler) • Farm Passport (Adam Duckworth) • Composting (Adam Mickley) • Bird Survey Outcome for Memorial Park (Sharon Petzinger) <p>Backlog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper Use of Pesticides and Herbicides (target Spring 2016) • Mosquito Control (target Spring 2016) • Organic Methods • Invasive Species • Fire Risk Reduction on Your Property 	5 Min
Budget Report (Adam Duckworth)	<p>Review and align on current state budget for EOSC, Sustainable Jersey grant and trail grant. Review outstanding reimbursements. Review upcoming spending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Summary (Actual and Planned Spend) 	Defer

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
Planning Board Report (Vacant)	Share pertinent information from Planning Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Passports distributed 	5 Min
Highlands Report (Adam Duckworth)	Share any developments related to the Highlands Act.	5 Min
MWA Report (Erik Henriksen)	Share any pertinent information from the MWA.	5 Min
RHA Report (Nancy Lawler)	Share any pertinent information from the RHA.	5 Min
Sustainable Jersey Report (Adam Duckworth)	Share any pertinent information from the Sustainable Jersey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intent on Energy Gold Standard 	Defer
Correspondence (Adam Duckworth)	Acknowledge and share any formal correspondence received by EOSC chair or informal correspondence received by EOSC members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	5 Min
Special Topics	Introduce for discussion any special topics outside of the standard agenda.	15 Min
Portfolio Review	Project Leads to provide status report and next steps for active and upcoming projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunnvale Grant • Farm Passport Challenge • Goracy Trail (Priority) • Memorial Park Bio-Blitz • Recycling Actions (Priority) 	Offline

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission Minutes

August 15th, 2016

ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order with a quorum at: 7:05 PM.

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

STANDARD AGENDA

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment (Adam Duckworth)	Call meeting to order and record attendance.	15 Min
Presentation of Minutes (Adam Duckworth)	Review and approval of July Meeting Minutes. Minutes: Motion made by Mrs. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Duckworth, unanimously approved by Miss Hardy and Miss Koch, who were present at the July meeting.	5 Min
General Admin (Adam Duckworth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	10 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
<p>Guest Presentation</p>	<p>Township Committeeman, Mike Schmidt, will provide an overview on a proposed ordinance to apply for a grant for additional open space.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Schmidt provided an overview of a draft resolution to purchase a property at 97 Red Mill Road (Block 35 Lot 88). The draft resolution discussed is attached to these minutes. September 16th is the deadline for the application to NJ Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council to provide matching funds for 50% of the cost. The house is very old and cannot likely be salvaged; it actually has a spring in the basement as a source of water. NJ Water Supply will cover the soft costs. The question of green acres grants surfaced but it was stated that we don't have any green acres grants leftover. The list price is \$135K and Mr. Schmidt has obtained three quotes for appraisals. Raritan Headwaters accompanied Mr. Schmidt to visit the property and has an application left. Mrs. Lawler encouraged Mr. Schmidt to think about fishing access and corrected a statement regarding Green Acres in that DEP took back ~\$400K when the total originally allotted to the Township of \$700K was not used. Mrs. Lawler asked how far back from the road the house sits and it was stated the house is very close to the road. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to demonstrate support for Mr. Schmidt and purchase of the property. The motion was made by Mrs. Lawler, seconded by Miss Koch and unanimously approved by Mr. Duckworth, Mr. Mickley and Miss Hardy.</p> <p>Mr. Schmidt also raised a land-locked parcel (Block 69, Lot 6), which is an old railroad track bed along Musconetcong River Rd. for discussion. Mr. Mickley stated that old railroad tracks are notorious for soil contamination and it's a considerable risk to take on a property like that.</p>	<p>20 Min</p>
<p>Guest Presentation</p>	<p>Nick Zemlochenko from the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council will present on risks of deer overpopulations and approaches and opportunities for deer management on town properties.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Zemlochenko is the Conservation Coordinator and stated that Hunterdon County has one of the highest densities of deer in the northeast and it's important to consider deer management approaches to limit damage to properties, vehicle accidents and lyme disease. He suggested consideration be given to allowing hunting on municipal properties and that Raritan Township is looking at similar programs to what is managed by Hunterdon County Parks. The Department of Fish & Wildlife writes the best rules on this.</p>	<p>45 Min</p>

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
Newsletter	<p>Winter newsletter deadline is November 1st. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>The following were submitted for the fall newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic Workshop (Nancy Lawler) • Farm Passport (Adam Duckworth) • Composting (Adam Mickley) • Bird Survey Outcome for Memorial Park (Sharon Petzinger) <p>Backlog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper Use of Pesticides and Herbicides (target Spring 2016) • Mosquito Control (target Spring 2016) • Organic Methods • Invasive Species • Fire Risk Reduction on Your Property <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth reviewed the articles that were submitted for the fall newsletter and suggested that perhaps deer management is a topic the team considers for the winter newsletter.</p>	5 Min
Budget Report (Adam Duckworth)	<p>Review and align on current state budget for EOSC, Sustainable Jersey grant and trail grant. Review outstanding reimbursements. Review upcoming spending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Summary (Actual and Planned Spend) <p>Minutes: Agenda item deferred.</p>	Defer
Planning Board Report (Vacant)	<p>Share pertinent information from Planning Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Passports distributed <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth stated that he distributed Farm Passports to all Planning Board members at the previous meeting he attended.</p>	5 Min
Highlands Report (Adam Duckworth)	<p>Share any developments related to the Highlands Act.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth indicated there were no updates to share.</p>	5 Min
MWA Report (Erik Henriksen)	<p>Share any pertinent information from the MWA.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Henriksen was not present so he had no updates. However, Mrs. Lawler stated there had been an incident reported to the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) regarding swimming in the river at Penwell road. She stated that swimming was technically not allowed at certain sections within the river but it is not something typically enforced.</p>	5 Min
RHA Report (Nancy Lawler)	<p>Share any pertinent information from the RHA.</p> <p>Minutes: Mrs. Lawler stated there were no updates.</p>	5 Min

Topic	Intent/Materials	Time
Sustainable Jersey Report (Adam Duckworth)	Share any pertinent information from the Sustainable Jersey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intent on Energy Gold Standard Minutes: Agenda item deferred.	Defer
Correspondence (Adam Duckworth)	Acknowledge and share any formal correspondence received by EOSC chair or informal correspondence received by EOSC members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Minutes: Mr. Duckworth reviewed a correspondence that had been received in the mailbox and passed it around for the team to review: NJDEP Letter of Interpretation (LOI) for wetlands boundary for property at Block 56, Lot 14.04.	5 Min
Special Topics	Introduce for discussion any special topics outside of the standard agenda.	15 Min
Portfolio Review	Project Leads to provide status report and next steps for active and upcoming projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunnvale Grant • Farm Passport Challenge • Goracy Trail (Priority) • Memorial Park Bio-Blitz • Recycling Actions (Priority) Minutes: Miss Hardy indicated she is continuing to check the website for grant announcements regarding the Bunnvale ponding issue and the target notification date is September. Mrs. Lawler reminded the team that the septic workshop is set from 3-5PM on October 2 nd . Mr. Duckworth stated the ANJEC Environmental Congress is coming up in September and indicated he could not attend but encouraged others from the team to attend to represent Lebanon Township. Mr. Duckworth requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40. The motion was made by Mrs. Lawler, seconded by Miss Koch and unanimously approved.	Offline

Draft Resolution for Property Acquisition as Shared by Township Committeeman, Mike Schmidt

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE

HIGHLANDS OPEN SPACE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council is offering matching grants up to 50% funding for acquisitions of property for any passive recreation or conservation purposes through the Highlands Open Space Partnership Program with an application deadline of September 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon Township has dedicated fund balances from previously collected Open Space taxes both at the County and local level that can be used as matching funds for the Highlands Open Space Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, Lebanon Township will endeavor to leverage its dedicated fund balances through additional partnerships with open space conservancy organizations; and

WHEREAS, a property located at 97 Red Mill Road (Block 35 Lot 88) in Lebanon Township (the "Property"), is offered for sale with an asking price of \$135,000, which does not include substantial costs anticipated to meet conditions for open space preservation; and

WHEREAS, according to the Highlands Council, the Property is categorized as Critical Wildlife Habitat and creates a key linkage in a Wildlife corridor;

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council further categorizes approximately 80% of the Property as a High Conservation Priority Area; and

WHEREAS, the Property is adjacent to the Spruce Run Creek, which is a clear running rock bottom creek that flows into Spruce Run Reservoir and is a Category One trout production stream and is trout stocked by the New Jersey Department of Fish & Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Property is also adjacent to other preserved properties, such as the 50 acre Hendra Property and 101 acre preserved Hall Tree Farm; and

WHEREAS, the Property offers attractive recreational uses and environmental preservation benefits, including water quality and supply protection and habitat conservation, owing to its proximity to the Spruce Run Creek and other preserved properties

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that application be made to the Highlands Open Space Partnership Program for matching funding for the acquisition of the property located at 97 Red Mill Road (Block 35 Lot 88) in Lebanon Township