

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Agenda

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### 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.

### AGENDA

Topic	Intent/Materials
<b>Kickoff, Roll Call &amp; Connecting Moment</b>	Call meeting to order and take roll call.
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	Review and approval of January Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Henriksen who was not present at the January meeting.
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Green Acres Program Inspection Report (Duckworth)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Green Acres Inspection Report Letter (Attachment 1)</li></ul></li><li>b) NJWSA Ash Tree Remediation (Duckworth)</li><li>c) LT Open Space Signage (Duckworth)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Boundary Signage</li><li>b. Hiker Signage</li></ul></li><li>d) Red Mill Race Preserve Sign (Henriksen)</li><li>e) ANJEC membership application</li><li>f) <a href="#">SJ TCNJ Volunteer Project</a></li><li>g) Green Acres Grant</li></ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Deer Hunting on Township Open Space Properties (Hardy)</li></ul>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<p>Spring newsletter deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Well Testing (Koch)</li><li>• Recycling Best Practices (Laul)</li><li>• EOSC 2019 YIR/Call for Volunteers (Adam)</li><li>• Tick Article (Petzinger)</li></ul> <p>Backlog: Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p>
<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>

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Minutes

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### 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	X
Sharon Hardy	Member	X
Adam Mickley	Member	No
Kathy Koch	Alternate 1	X
Marty Collett	Alternate 2	No

### MEETING MINUTES

Topic	Intent/Materials
<b>Kickoff, Roll Call &amp; Connecting Moment</b>	<p>Call meeting to order and take roll call.</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> The meeting was called to order by Mr. Duckworth at 7:05 PM. In addition to the EOSC members recorded above, Mayor Schmidt was also in attendance.</p>
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	<p>Review and approval of January Meeting Minutes. All commission members can approve except for Mr. Henriksen who was not present at the January meeting.</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth asked if there were any comments on the proposed Meeting Minutes from the January meeting. There were none. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ms. Koch, seconded by Ms. Petzinger and unanimously approved.</p>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) Green Acres Program Inspection Report (Duckworth)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Green Acres Inspection Report Letter (Attachment 1)</li> </ul> </li> <li>i) NJWSA Ash Tree Remediation (Duckworth)</li> <li>j) LT Open Space Signage (Duckworth)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Boundary Signage</li> <li>b. Hiker Signage</li> </ul> </li> <li>k) Red Mill Race Preserve Sign (Henriksen)</li> <li>l) ANJEC membership application</li> <li>m) <a href="#">SJ TCNJ Volunteer Project</a></li> <li>n) Green Acres Grant</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth stated that resident letters had been mailed since the last meeting. He stated he received a response from a resident who lives near the Schaaf property, complimenting the Township on its stewardship of the land and stating that his family chose that location because of its proximity to the preserved open space.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth also stated that a resident on Shady Lane near the Nicholson properties approached him to express his dissatisfaction with the letter and its restrictions on hunting and ORV use. The resident was not optimistic that those living in his area and who have been using the property for that purpose would cease those activities. He also did not seem aware that the Township was the owner of those properties and that they were no longer privately owned, especially since the names of the properties still reflect the previous owner (e.g. "Nicholson").</p>

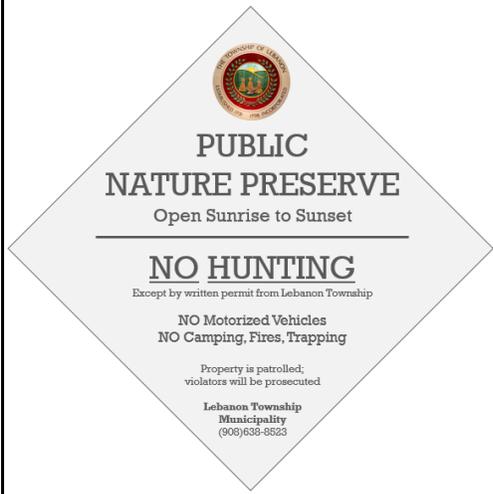
Topic	Intent/Materials
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Ms. Lawler stated that a resident approached her regarding the Fisher property and thought that hunting was an allowed use.

The team discussed these comments and acknowledged that posting the boundaries is a first step and will help clarify ownership and approved uses of the property. It was also stated that the confusion due to the property names should be addressed and drives the need to determine more appropriate names for these properties.

Mr. Duckworth moved the team to the next topic and directed the team to the draft response letter to the Green Acres Inspection Report. The team reviewed the letter and acknowledged it was fine as is but suggested to copy the Township Clerk, Township Committee members and Julie Shelley from NJWSA. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve the letter with these changes. Mr. Henriksen made the motion, Ms. Hardy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Next, Mr. Duckworth presented a concept drawing of an open space boundary sign.



He stated that he had followed up with the County and the signage company that the County uses (Voss Signs in Manilus, NY). Based on a quick check of Miquin Woods, it appears the County posts their property every 50', at least along the roadway. An informal online search turned up some guidelines for posting boundaries in WV and NY, which specified no more than 500' and 660' respectively, but most guidelines simply stated a "reasonable distance".

Mr. Duckworth said he calculated the total perimeter of Township open space and found it to be ~7.5 miles. At this distance, 800 signs would be required if posting every 50' and 162 signs if posting every 250'. After some discussion, the team agreed to assume an approximate posting distance of 200'. The cost per sign if ordering more than 250 would be \$1/sign. It was determined that 250 signs would be a good target.

Mr. Duckworth indicated there were a variety of sign colors to choose from. The team agreed to sticking with white. The question of the proper number to put on the sign was discussed and it was decided that the police non-emergency number that goes to County dispatch during off-hours should be used.

The County representative, Craig Evans, stated that they use the thinnest gauge plastic and the signs hold up very well, usually lasting 6-8 years.

Ms. Petzinger stated that when posting, nails should be left loose to allow for tree growth and that we should factor in the cost of nails. She also said to ask if they could come with pre-punched holes. Mayor Schmidt stated that funding for the signs would come from open space monies with Township Committee approval. Committeeman Laul would present the proposal to Township Committee.

Topic	Intent/Materials
	<p>In relation to the signage conversation, Mayor Schmidt stated that he recently came across signs on stakes that indicate the boundary of a public access easement. He asked if this was something we should consider for the Hendra property. Ms. Hardy stated this could be used for Red Mill Race Preserve, as well. Mr. Duckworth stated that this gets back to the conversation and decision we've made previously that it is the responsibility of the landowner to post their own borders if they so choose. No decision was made regarding this additional signage.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked Mr. Henriksen about the Red Mill Race Preserve sign. Mr. Henriksen stated that he sent photos to the stone carver and that the stone likely weighs between 800 and 1500 lbs. Mr. Henriksen would not be able to bring the stone in and he is waiting on an estimate of the cost to come out and have it done on site.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth indicated that he investigated the Sustainable Jersey volunteer project opportunity and there were no projects that would satisfy the requirement of being linked to an SJ action. Ms. Lawler stated that it would be good to give some feedback to the Sustainable Jersey program as things that are important to rural communities like ours, such as well testing, land preservation and limiting road salt are not recognized as part of their framework.</p> <p>With respect to the Green Acres grant, Mayor Schmidt said that he spoke to conservation partners and has the document we need to fill out. It is a two-page letter. He stated the grant is very competitive now and that we need to identify preservation efforts that are in progress as part of the grant application.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<p>b) Deer Hunting on Township Open Space Properties (Hardy)</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Ms. Hardy provided some information about the County Parks and Recreation deer management program. They have a requirement to submit a survey at the end of the hunting season. They allow 8 hunters per 226 acres as an example on one of their parcels. The hunting permit is good for one park and hunters are required to take one doe first before a buck.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked if this now means we have committed to pursuing hunting on our open space as previously we had said that we should get the pulse of the community first. Mayor Schmidt said he is comfortable moving forward with this and letting public comment flow through the Township Committee meeting where this would be discussed. Mr. Duckworth suggested that we see if we can limit it to Township Residents or at least give them the first option for a permit.</p> <p>Ms. Koch stated that she and Ms. Hardy attended a Highlands Coalition meeting where they spoke to a number of individuals regarding forest management. A couple of individuals were identified as good potential speakers at a future EOSC meeting, such as Jared Rosenbaum and Sylvia Solaun. Ms. Koch stated she would follow up.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth noted the late time and asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:50PM. Mr. Henriksen made the motion, Ms. Lawler seconded, and it was unanimously approved.</p>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<p>Spring newsletter deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Articles on the docket include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well Testing (Koch)</li> <li>• Recycling Best Practices (Laul)</li> <li>• EOSC 2019 YIR/Call for Volunteers (Adam)</li> <li>• Tick Article (Petzinger)</li> </ul> <p>Backlog: Invasive Species, Christian Crossroads Dam Removal/History</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> None</p>

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<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=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwaU4TGc">https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B14m3wFylheUWjBjNEkwaU4TGc</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> None</p>