

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Agenda

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER

In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act", notice has been given that the Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission hosts its regular meetings on the first Monday of every month. Notice of this meeting was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat. This April meeting will be hosted via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic.

### AGENDA

Topic	Description
<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 March 2021 Meeting Minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All approving.</li></ul>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest stewardship planning; NJ Audubon (Petzinger)</li><li>• Bohn (Block 36/Lot 10) property decision (Duckworth)</li></ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Minutes

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 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
Kathy Koch	Member	X
Marty Collett	Alternate 1	X
Mike Chen	Alternate 2	No

### MEETING MINUTES

Topic	Description
<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 7:04p. In addition to the attendees noted above, Committeeman Laul and Mayor Schmidt were in attendance, as well as Nick Zemlachenko from NJWSA and Don Donnelly from NJ Audubon.</p>
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	<p>Review and approval of March 2021 Meeting Minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All approving except Mr. Newman and Mr. Henriksen.</li></ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth asked if there were any comments on the March Meeting Minutes. There were none. Ms. Koch made a motion to approve the Minutes. Ms. Lawler seconded, and they were unanimously approved.</p>
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Forest stewardship planning; NJ Audubon (Petzinger)</li><li>Bohn (Block 36/Lot 10) property decision (Duckworth)</li></ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth handed the floor to Ms. Petzinger who introduced Don Donnelly from NJ Audubon. Mr. Donnelly provided some education on forest stewardship and answered questions.</p> <p>Forest stewardship planning was initially focused on wood products but there is a lot more to a forest than just wood products. Property under a Forest Stewardship Plan has to produce wood products to be considered for Farmland Assessment. Forest Stewardship plans are typically 10-year plans. Often Foresters approach developing a plan with producing wood products for tax benefit. Do your homework before choosing a forestry consultant to work with as not all are created equal. A valuable first step is to get a baseline inventory. Volunteers can be used as a starting point, but a credentialed forester must eventually sign off on the plan. Plans should be adaptive. For example, no one would have expected the emerald ash borer invasion. Under the current law, it is not possible to have one plan for all properties.</p> <p>Ms. Lawler stated that our primary goal should be water quality with a secondary goal of trails; we would have to consider public safety.</p>

Topic	Description
	<p>Mr. Donnelly said it is up to each town to determine how much public input they would want. Sometimes there is a whole public input process just to set goals. Mr. Duckworth asked what some common goals are. Mr. Donnelly stated a required goal is forest sustainability, but others include water quality, forest diversity and forest resiliency considering increasing climate change. Mr. Donnelly said the plan can project how the forest would do in different climate scenarios. The new legislation as it is proposed does not require Townships to have plans for land they already own.</p> <p>Mr. Newman asked about the risk or liability of non-compliance. Mr. Donnelly stated Forest Stewardship Plans do not represent a legal commitment. Legal wording says something like “to the best of my ability will implement this plan.”</p> <p>Mr. Zemlachenko stated that NJWSA has several reports/maps, historic areas, soil maps, and other assets for parcels co-owned with the Township. Ms. Petzinger stated we needed to define our high-level goals before we do our inventory, like carbon sequestration for example.</p> <p>Mr. Donnelly stated the cost is variable depending on what we want and who we have do it. For a 25-acre property, we’d be talking about \$1500 or so, but it can be much more expensive depending on the scope of the plan. Currently, we can’t technically have a Forest Stewardship Plan for public lands. But we can submit it for approval and then have them reject it, then go the Woodland Management Plan route.</p> <p>Mayor Schmidt said he received a recent communication and is concerned goals would be dictated. Mr. Donnelly said that is not part of the legislation at all.</p> <p>Ms. Lawler took an action to reach out to Mr. Zemlachenko to talk about the Fisher property.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth thanked Mr. Zemlachenko and Mr. Donnelly.</p> <p>He then provided an overview of the Bill Bohn open space acquisition opportunity. Discussion ensued.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth proposed the following motion:</p> <p>Whereas the preservation of a portion of Block 36/Lot 10 will increase trail connectivity by linking Miquin Woods with Woodglen Road nearby to Memorial Park and Woodglen Middle School, and</p> <p>Whereas the property contains a mapped C1 stream and is headwaters for a tributary to Spruce Run, and</p> <p>Whereas the project is still in the early stages with Township Committee approval still required and funding still to be secured,</p> <p>A motion is made to support the partial acquisition of approximately between 19 and 30 acres of Block 36/Lot 10 for preservation purposes.</p> <p>The motion was made by Ms. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Henriksen and unanimously approved.</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> A motion was made by Ms. Lawler to adjourn the meeting at 9:29p. It was seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p>