

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Agenda

Sep 13<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 at the Lebanon Township Municipal Building. Notice of this meeting was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat.

### AGENDA

Topic	Description
<b>Kickoff, Roll Call &amp; Connecting Moment</b>	Call meeting to order and take roll call.
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	Deferred to next meeting.
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deer Management Program<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Update from Mr. Laul on permitting process</li><li>b. Update from My Duckworth on property posting</li></ul></li><li>• Chagewater Pipeline Removal Update (Lawler)</li><li>• Forest Management Update (Lawler)</li></ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hunting Program presentation at October MRMC</li><li>• Fisher/Nicholson, Goracy and Schaaf Property Naming</li><li>• Invasive Plants and Information Dispersal</li></ul>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Email from Andrea Obermaier – 31-Aug-2021 – Deer Hunting Start Date (Attached)</li><li>• Email from Marlene Larson – 09-Sep-2021 – Mile-A-Minute Invasive Plant (Attached)</li></ul>
<b>Open Comment</b>	Open comment from Commission members and public.

## Re: Lebanon Twp. News article re: deer population

Adam Duckworth <ltenv@lebtwp.net>

Mon 9/13/2021 6:47 AM

To: Andrea <ohbie2@comcast.net>

Hello Andrea,

Thank you for reaching out about the newsletter article and I'm sorry to hear about your run-in with Lyme Disease. Lebanon Township is actually in Zone 8 with Fall Bow starting September 11th.

Here is a link to the NJ DEP website with the details of the program. I hope this helps and we appreciate your support of our deer management program.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/deer.htm>

Kind regards,

Adam Duckworth

Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space (EOSC) Commissioner



### NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife - White-tailed Deer in New Jersey - Government of New Jersey

2021-22 Deer Hunting Information Fall Bow, September 11 (Early Zones Only, Regulation Sets #4-8) Youth Deer Bow Hunt, September 25 Fall Bow, October 2 (Statewide) Permit Bow Season, October 30 Youth Deer Firearm Hunt, November 20

[www.nj.gov](http://www.nj.gov)

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**From:** Andrea <ohbie2@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:25 AM

**To:** Adam Duckworth <ltenv@lebtwp.net>

**Subject:** Lebanon Twp. News article re: deer population

Dear Mr. Duckworth,

I read your article regarding the deer population in Lebanon Township with interest since I have had Lyme Disease as well as having had a deer hit my car last month. I do have a suggestion on how to lower the population considerably which involves moving hunting season to October before mating season. I do not know if there is a reason why this has not been done already, but I do think it would make sense if lowering the deer population is such a serious concern. I would be interested in hearing your response to this idea. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrea Obermaier

[ohbie2@comcast.net](mailto:ohbie2@comcast.net)

## Serious Invasive Plant Alert

MARLENE LARSON <mklarson76@comcast.net>

Fri 9/10/2021 3:05 PM

To: Adam Duckworth <ltenv@lebtwp.net>; Itgreenteam@gmail.com <Itgreenteam@gmail.com>

Cc: Mike Schmidt <Schmidt@lebtwp.net>; Guy Wilson <gw21188@gmail.com>; mike.vanclef@gmail.com <mike.vanclef@gmail.com>; Warren Gabriel <dpw@lebtwp.net>

**To: Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission and Green Team:**

### **Environmental Concern:**

The invasive, extremely damaging Mile-A-Minute Weed is alive and well and spreading in Lebanon Township, calling for township-wide awareness/action campaigns.

### **Background:**

Living up to its name, this aggressive menace can grow 6 inches in 24 hours. Razor-sharp barbs along its stem help it cling to anything in its way, matting over whatever is in its path. These barbs also make it difficult to handle. Highly prolific, it produces clusters of seeds that are spread easily by birds and the wind, next door or miles away. These seeds can germinate anytime during the growing season. And, even the smallest plant can produce seeds. This annual predator will die with the first killing frost, leaving behind seeds for the next season as well as many seasons to come. This information comes from credible Internet sources and my personal experience.

### **2020 History:**

In mid-September last year, I discovered a plant on my property on Anthony Road that I hadn't seen before. I found information on the Internet that stunned me. Then, I was horrified to find that the barnyard next door was covered with this new invader. Thanks to the cooperation of the two families who each own part of the barnyard, the weeds were pulled, weed whacked, mowed or sprayed. Ripened seeds were collected along the way for safe disposal. I was further stunned to find out that the same weed was growing on two adjacent properties and three properties on Woodglen Road. Alarmed, I mailed information about the weed to nearly everyone on Anthony Road and affected properties on Woodglen. One person more than a mile away found the weed on her property. I posted an alert on a local Facebook page. I also sent a "heads-up" email to Warren Gabriel in the DPW, warning him about my discovery. He kindly forwarded the email to the Environmental and Open Space (EOS) Commission. 2020 closed with hopes that things were under control.

### **2021 History:**

In May, I discovered that the barnyard was carpeted with the weed. Thankfully, the owners cooperated by mowing the barnyard while I used pulling, weed whacking, and spraying in un-mowable areas to control growth before seeds developed. Meanwhile, plants erupted on my property and the other side of my property, which were pulled or sprayed as they were discovered until they appeared in unreachable areas. How to handle this new growth is yet to be determined. Vigilance is essential because the weeds appear anytime, anywhere.

In June, I posted another alert on the local Facebook page.

Recently, I discovered the weed growing on Sharrer, Sliker, and Changewater Roads while I simply performed my usual daily activities. The clusters of arrowhead-shaped leaves are easy to spot from the road. It is these random appearances miles apart that made me concerned about where else Mile-a-Minute is festering and prompted me to contact the township's EOS Commission and Green Team.

### **Information Gathering:**

I am certainly not an expert on the Mile-A-Minute Weed. I first searched the topic on the Internet. I contacted the Raritan Headwaters Association whereby I was referred to the Friends of Hopewell Valley

Open Space Organization and finally Michael Van Clef, Ph.D. Dr. Van Clef is the program director for the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team and the stewardship director for Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space.

I recommend that you contact experts to educate your members about this growing pest that's attacking our township. Dr. Van Clef conducts seminars on many topics, including invasive species as well as customized programs. Michele Byers, executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, should be another good contact. An outbreak of Mile-A-Minute in East Amwell was mentioned in the foundation's publication.

### **Awareness/Action Campaigns:**

While an alert could still be posted on the township's website and social media, I feel now is the time to plan how to attack this looming disaster before the next growing season arrives. Following are suggestions for awareness/action campaigns:

- Educate commission members and others as appropriate.
- Coordinate with other environmental commissions in the county and state. We aren't the only area affected. The plant has been in New Jersey since at least 2004. It just took a while to reach this area.
- Use the resources of other environmental organizations such as the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and the Raritan Headwaters Association as well as departments in county and state governments.
- Use all on-line broadcast resources.
- Use publications such as the township's newsletter as well as features in newspapers and magazines.
- Use the township's DPW to detect and destroy the weed's growth on public properties and along roadsides. The township could send information packets on identifying and destroying the weed to affected property owners.

I'm sure a brainstorming session would come up with additional creative, doable solutions to promote awareness and mitigation.

### **Almost Final Thought:**

The township is already infested with invasive plants. The Mile-A-Minute Weed would make those predators look like amateurs. Discovering new growth is like watching the birth of an environmental disaster much like the Spotted Lanternfly.

### **Final Thought:**

I have enjoyed living in Lebanon Township for 40 years and care deeply about its future. In that time, I've watched open spaces fill up with multiflora and trees become engulfed with strangling vines. The vines are especially disturbing to me. It would help if property owners would cut the vines at ground level during the fall or winter and use organic sprays to stop new growth in the spring. Any action taken would help free these magnificent giants, so important to air quality. In the end, it's actually all about property values. Who wants to buy and pay high taxes on property that's unattractive, unenjoyable, and unusable? Made more so by the Mile-A-Minute Weed.

**I hope you share my concern and want to take action.**

**Marlene Larson**

# Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

## Minutes

Sep 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### ROLL CALL

EOSC Member	Role	Attendance
Adam Duckworth	Chairman, Planning Board Liaison	X
Sharon Petzinger	Member	Regrets
Warren Newman	Member	Regrets
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	Regrets

### 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 at 7:06p. In addition to the EOSC members noted above, Mayor Schmidt, also the Open Space Coordinator for the Township, was in attendance. Committeeman Laul had a conflict with Parks Committee but would come by afterwards if there was time.</p>
<b>Presentation of Minutes</b>	Deferred to next meeting.
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer Management Program                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Update from Mr. Laul on permitting process</li> <li>b. Update from My Duckworth on property posting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Changewater Pipeline Removal Update (Lawler)</li> <li>• Forest Management Update (Lawler)</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mayor Schmidt provided an update on the permitting process for the deer management program. He stated there were 11 people in the lottery for the 17 total permits available. Mr. Duckworth stated that he started posting Fisher and terrain was difficult. He is having to blaze a trail as he goes. He noted a neighbor at Block 49, Lot 1 (Westphalen), adjacent to Fisher, appeared to be encroaching on Township open space. A concrete monument may have been plowed over and some dirt piles and old cars placed on our open space. Mayor Schmidt suggested Mr. Duckworth speak with them and could request accompaniment by a police officer. He also stated in situations like this, the Township could offer to hire a licensed surveyor with the losing party ultimately responsible for the cost. Consider including someone from NJWSA, as well. Ms. Lawler mentioned this might be a riparian area and even if they own it, there are likely restrictions on what can be done there. Mr. Collett suggested we do a survey of the hunters at the end of the season.</p> <p>Ms. Lawler provided an update on the Chevron Pipeline Removal project. She said signs are up. Mr. Duckworth said he walked down there, and pipe ends have been exposed on the Township side of the river. Ms. Lawler said Chevron is preserving some of those pipes and will also be providing a piece to the Township for the museum.</p> <p>Forest Management was tabled until next meeting.</p>

Topic	Description
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting Program presentation at October MRMC</li> <li>• Fisher/Nicholson, Goracy and Schaaf Property Naming</li> <li>• Invasive Plants and Information Dispersal</li> <li>• Open Space Brief</li> <li>• Open Space Preservation Opportunity               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 43 Anthony Rd - \$200K – 5.2 acres – David Tullo (BK 49, Lt 76)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Moving on to the Musconetcong River Management Council (MRMC) presentation, Mr. Henriksen stated the date for the meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Petzinger will present the hunting program. Mr. Duckworth offered to be a backup if needed.</p> <p>He then refreshed the team on the need to name our open space properties and indicated that Committeeman Laul suggest this be the next priority for the Commission. He stated that a previous comment had been to consider Native American names. Ms. Lawler noted that “Lomerson Preserve” was previously discussed as a name. Mayor Schmidt reiterated previous comments that perhaps we should avoid naming open space after people. How do we determine who gets something named after them and who doesn’t? He stated that he likes the Native American angle or perhaps consider something maybe related to the geological features. Ms. Koch agreed to investigate some Lenni Lenape words. Mayor Schmidt asked if we want to engage the community in brainstorming. There was some discussion but a general desire to move more quickly on this than community involvement would allow. Mr. Duckworth asked everyone to brainstorm names in preparation for the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Invasive Plants and Information Dispersal.</b> Mr. Duckworth stated he received an email from a resident about an invasive plant – Mile-a-Minute. Ms. Lawler cautioned that there is a native look-alike. There was some discussion including a comment about a weevil that targets Mile-a-Minutes. Ms. The use of Round-up by a non-professional was not encouraged. Mayor Schmidt suggested we could do a survey of where Mile-a-Minute is and then we can go to the County and ask for the weevil.</p> <p><b>Open Space Brief.</b> Mr. Duckworth noted that Commission members have previously suggested we have a “spec sheet” of some sort for each of our preserved properties. Mr. Duckworth stated he started a rough draft of one for the Fisher property and is asking for feedback. Ms. Lawler stated she would also like feedback from the Administrator, Township Committee and Planning Board. The funding source would be valuable to have indicated. Mr. Collett suggested a “how it started” section. For Fisher, Ms. Lawler and Mr. Newman saw the property up for sale and then the realtor approached them proactively. Ms. Lawler agreed a “point of origin” and some history would be valuable. Ms. Hardy and Mr. Collett stated this would be good for new EOSC members. Mayor Schmidt also stated this would be good for DPW to understand where parking areas are and keeping them maintained. Mr. Duckworth also noted police. Ms. Lawler suggested we include appropriate uses and deed restrictions, including what we can and can’t do on EIFP. Mr. Duckworth stated that ideally we do want to duplicate information across the sheets and would have a PDF with links to additional information.</p> <p><b>Open Space Preservation Opportunity.</b> Mr. Duckworth stated he saw a potential preservation opportunity for sale – Block 49, Lot 76, at 43 Anthony Road. This is owned by Tullo. Ms. Lawler stated we made an offer on this property around 2012 and this is the property that Matthew Gadick was concerned about when he attended a previous EOSC meeting – he thought there was a stream being moved. Mayor Schmidt suggested it would be good to give it a try and to indicate to the realtor it could take over half a year to get the transaction done. Mr. Duckworth agreed to call the realtor.</p>

Topic	Description
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email from Andrea Obermaier – 31-Aug-2021 – Deer Hunting Start Date (Attached)</li> <li>• Email from Marlene Larson – 09-Sep-2021 – Mile-A-Minute Invasive Plant (Attached)</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth acknowledged the two correspondences noted in the agenda and asked if there were others? There were none.</p>
<b>Open Comment</b>	<p>Open comment from Commission members and public.</p> <p><b>Minutes:</b> Mr. Duckworth acknowledged the end of agenda topics and proceeded to ask each Commission member if they had any other business to raise.</p> <p>Mayor Schmidt stated that he was working with partners to resolve conflicting appraisal approaches between the Federal Government and Green Acres. This is impacting progress of the Rich property.</p> <p>Mayor Schmidt asked about Amphibian crossing signs and education on what to do if residents see a turtle crossing the street. Ms. Lawler suggested we discuss this at the next meeting. Mr. Duckworth agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made by Mr. Collett to adjourn the meeting at 8:27p, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p>

# Open Space Brief

**Common Name:** Fisher

**Block 49 | Lot 4.02 | Q0164**

The 57-acre Fisher property is in the center of Lebanon Township and adjoining two other open space parcels, forming a contiguous preserved tract of 114 acres. It was preserved in 2011 and is co-owned by Lebanon Township and NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA).

**Address:** 51-55 Anthony Road

**Acreage:** 56.888 acres

**Ownership:** Co-owned by Township of Lebanon (67%) and NJ Water Supply Authority (33%)

**Deed Date:** 15-Dec-2011

**Purchase Price:** \$337,500.00

**Purchased From:** Ronald K. and Karla Fisher  
5 Beech Brook Lane  
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

**Property Posting:** In Progress

**Forest Stewardship Plan:** None

**Open Space Management Plan:** None

**Trails:** There are no established hiking trails on the property

## Survey Information:

A high-resolution digital image of the survey done by Maser Consulting at the time of purchase is available.

## Easements of Note:

- EIFP Easement – There is an EIFP Easement covering 18.757 acres (33%) of the property.
- Pipeline Easement

## Parking and Access:

The only direct public access point is by means of Anthony Road. There is no established parking area and parking along the road is difficult due to rough terrain and a drop-off from the pavement. Access is also possible via the adjoining open space parcels.

## Waterways:

- The Spruce Run and a tributary

Adjoining Properties:

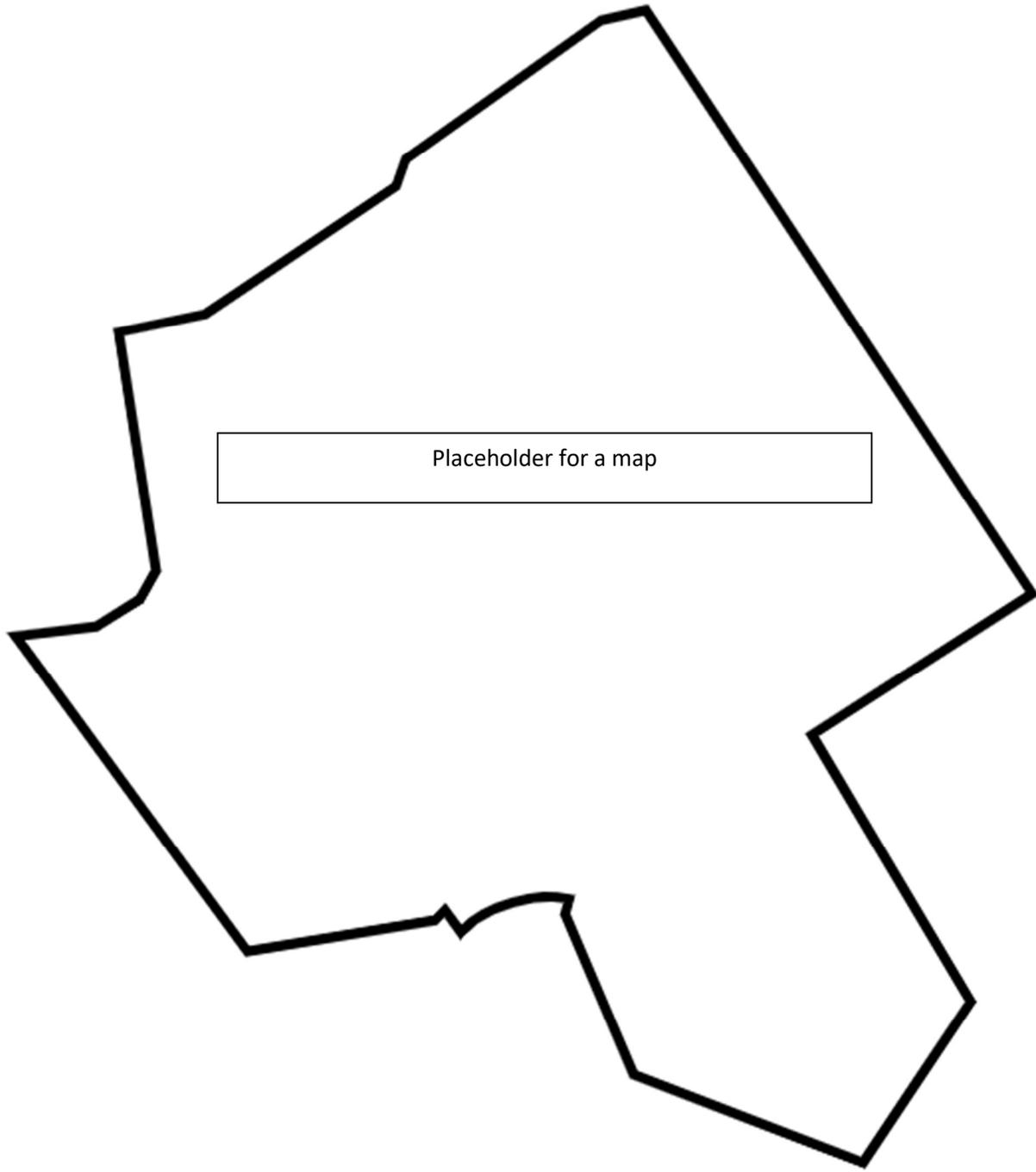
<b>Block &amp; Lot</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>Block 49   Lot 4.03</b>	688 Woodglen Road	Fred & Ryann Westphalen
...		
...		
...		

Historical Timeline:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>15-Dec-2011</b>	Purchase completed and deed recorded.

Additional Information:

<Placeholder for additional information>



Placeholder for a map