

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

Agenda

January 11th, 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 has changed its January regular business meeting from the first Monday of January to January 11th and will host the meeting via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic. Notice of this meeting was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat.

AGENDA

Topic	Description
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment	Call meeting to order and take roll call.
Presentation of Minutes	Review and approval of March, July and October 2020 Meeting Minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March – All approving except Mr. Henriksen and Mr. Collett.• July – All approving except Mr. Newman, Mr. Henriksen, Ms. Lawler and Mr. Chen.• October – All approving except for Mr. Chen.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Space Acquisition Updates<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Miquin-Goracy Link (Hardy)b. Additional Nicholson Piece (Duckworth)c. Whitehall Properties (Schmidt)d. Miquin-Woodglen Link (aka. Bohn Property) (Duckworth)
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Litter Cleanup (Duckworth)• EOSC Member Renewals at Reorg (Duckworth)• Upcoming studies along the Musconetcong (Lawler)• RHA well test results (Koch)
Newsletter	Spring newsletter deadline is February 1 st .
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

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission

Minutes

January 11th, 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
Kickoff, Roll Call & Connecting Moment	<p>Call meeting to order and take roll call.</p> <p>Minutes: In addition to the EOSC members noted above, Committeeman Laul and Mayor Schmidt were in attendance.</p>
Presentation of Minutes	<p>Review and approval of March, July and October 2020 Meeting Minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March – All approving except Mr. Henriksen. • July – All approving except Mr. Newman, Mr. Henriksen, Ms. Lawler and Mr. Chen. • October – All approving except for Mr. Chen. <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth asked if there were comments on the March 2020 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Collett stated that he was present for the meeting and that should be corrected. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve the March Meeting Minutes with this correction. The motion was made by Ms. Koch, seconded by Mr. Collett and unanimously approved.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked if there were comments on the July 2020 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Collett noted a typo whereas it should say “State Park” instead of “Start Park”. Ms. Koch noted a typo whereas it said “Mary” instead of “Mara”. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve the July Meeting Minutes with these corrections. The motion was made by Mr. Collett, seconded by Ms. Petzinger and unanimously approved.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked if there were comments on the October 2020 Meeting Minutes. There were none. Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to approve the October Meeting Minutes. The motion was made by Mr. Henriksen, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p>
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space Acquisition Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Miquin-Goracy Link (Hardy) b. Additional Nicholson Piece (Duckworth) c. Whitehall Properties (Schmidt) d. Miquin-Woodglen Link (aka. Bohn Property) (Duckworth) <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth ask Ms. Hardy if she had any updates on the Miquin-Goracy Link. Ms. Hardy stated she is still in touch with Vi and Guy and they are continuing to work on it; Vi</p>

Topic	Description
	<p>remains supportive. Mr. Duckworth stated that he and Committeeman Laul are holding off on posting the property until the acquisition is complete. Committeeman Laul and Ms. Hardy agreed.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth provided an update on the Nicholson piece. He stated that Mr. Nicholson believed the Green Acres appraisal undervalued the property and was not interested in pursuing preservation any further. Mr. Duckworth reminded the team that they had agreed not to offer above appraised value at a previous meeting.</p> <p>Mayor Schmidt provided an update on the Josh Rich (aka. Whitehall) parcels along Hill Rd. and Hickory Run Rd. He stated that the Highlands is administering the grant from US Fish and Wildlife. He had participated on conference calls with the Highlands Association to clarify requirements. He stated Mr. Rich has agreed to sell four lots with approved septic design plans. The Green Acres pre-appraisal questionnaire has been submitted and he expects in next couple of weeks to get quotes for appraisals. Note one parcel does not show up on Google Maps. There is a spring on the property that feeds the pond that feeds Hickory Run. Mr. Newman asked if there were any structures? Mayor Schmidt says no. Ms. Petzinger asked why are they selling it. Mayor Schmidt said the landowner has not said but that he suspects it's simply to preserve the rural feel around the landowner's home.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked Committeeman Laul about the changes on Township Committee. Committeeman Laul stated that Brian Wunder submitted his resignation on December 16th and the Republican Committee voted to replace Mr. Wunder with Abe Abuchowski. He has been on the zoning board for ~17 years and part of the community for more than 20. He was sworn in on January 6th.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth provided an update on the Bill Bohn property (aka. Miquin-Woodglen Link). He stated he and Mayor Schmidt walked the property with Mr. Bohn and provided him a couple of options for how to carve out a parcel for preservation that provides the connectivity EOSC is seeking. Ms. Lawler stated she did not feel excited about this one.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Cleanup (Duckworth) • EOSC Member Renewals at Reorg (Duckworth) • Upcoming studies along the Musconetcong (Lawler) • RHA well test results (Koch) <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth stated that Ms. Naccarato is willing to coordinate the litter cleanup this year and asked if EOSC members would be comfortable sponsoring the activity with the ongoing pandemic. Ms. Koch said she would be delighted to do litter cleanup. Mr. Henriksen said “definitely”. Ms. Lawler stated her support, as well, and said that an MWA study has found that locally generated litter is on the rise. She is also concerned about drinking and driving and stated we need to communicate what we find more broadly, such as to the Police Department and local healthcare providers. It is a serious problem here. Ms. Petzinger agreed. Ms. Lawler stated there is an app going around to track litter and she will share the name.</p> <p>Ms. Koch noted that RHA is proceeding with their stream cleanup on April 17th. We can do this safely. Ms. Lawler stated that MWA is also doing it. Mayor Schmidt asked if we should try to align with dumpster day and suggested we get a dumpster dedicated to tires. Ms. Lawler loved the idea. She and Mr. Newman agreed to help securing it. Ms. Petzinger also noted that tires are prime mosquito breeding habitats.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to sponsor the annual litter cleanup with adjustments to align with any COVID restrictions and cautions. The motion was made by Mr. Henriksen, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth noted that the terms for himself, Mr. Henriksen, Ms. Koch and Mr. Chen were renewed. Mayor Schmidt stated that Mr. Duckworth was reappointed Chairman, Committeeman Laul would continue to be liaison and he would continue to be Open Space Coordinator. He also stated that Ms. Lawler would be liaison to MRMC with Mr. Henriksen as the alternate.</p>

Topic	Description
	<p>Mr. Duckworth handed the floor to Ms. Lawler to share information about the upcoming studies along the Musconetcong. She stated that Montclair State University received a 319 Grant and they will be looking for sources of bacterial contamination along the Musconetcong between Rt. 31 and Hackettstown. She suggested we consider recommending priority sites, such as the tributary along Hollow Road. She had concerns with manure piling along that road. She had previously received a letter from Raritan Valley that a student received high results. Mr. Warren noted that he had heard of foaming in that tributary, which is an indicator of pollution. Mr. Duckworth suggested we have sites at the start and end of Township boundaries. Ms. Lawler was concerned about New Hampton area and said she also wanted to hear if the Committee has any concerns. Mayor Schmidt asked what happens if we find problematic data, along the Hollow Road tributary for example. He stated that perhaps Fair-Share Housing could be used to upgrade a septic system. Mr. Duckworth, Ms. Lawler and Ms. Petzinger agreed to work together to develop EOSC recommendations for review. Ms. Lawler said the sites have not been set yet and now is the time to influence the study.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth handed the floor to Ms. Koch to share information about the RHA Well Test results from 2020. Ms. Koch stated 36 samples were collected and overall, the findings were pretty good. Coliform bacteria occurred in 6 tests. Radon was found in 2 of 13. Mara would like to do this again in later May so we can be outdoors. May 22nd, May 26th and June 5th are our options, either in front of the municipal building or back in Memorial Park. Mr. Newman stated he could help and that we should avoid Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Collett asked if a mapping of well test results was available. Ms. Koch said yes and she will share it with everyone. Ms. Lawler suggested we share the results with the school. Mr. Duckworth said he could help with getting it into the Virtual Backpack.</p>
Newsletter	<p>Spring newsletter deadline is February 1st.</p> <p>Minutes: Mr. Duckworth reminded everyone of the upcoming newsletter deadline. Ms. Koch stated she would write an article about well testing results and include an announcement of the upcoming well testing day. Ms. Koch suggested we hand out brochures along Musconetcong River Rd. Mr. Duckworth agreed to help.</p>
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 asked if there any final comments from anyone before adjourning. Mr. Henriksen said a large garage went up at a neighboring home on Musconetcong River Road and he was concerned about the size of it, as well as drainage onto the road. It was suggested he call the Zoning Officer.</p> <p>Mr. Duckworth asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. The motion was made by Mr. Newman, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.</p>