

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission (EOSC)

Agenda

May 2nd, 2022

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 new meeting time was published in the Hunterdon County Democrat.

AGENDA

Kickoff & Roll Call

Presentation of Minutes

- EOSC Regular Meeting - April 2022

Old Business

- Forest stewardship planning (Petzinger, Lawler, Duckworth)
- Fisher, Red Mill Race Preserve parking area (Chen, Collett)
- Deer management program (Chen, Duckworth)
- Spruce Run Watershed Protection Plan (Duckworth, Henriksen, Collett)
- NJ State Forest Task Force (Petzinger, Lawler)

New Business

- LTAA and sports field project at Memorial Park (Collett, Duckworth)
- Draft Memorial Policy for review (Laul)
- June 6th EOSC meeting rescheduling (Duckworth)

Correspondence

- None

Recent & Upcoming Events

- 16-Apr-2022 MWA Annual River Clean-up
- 23-Apr-2022 RHA River Clean-up
- 07-May-2022 MWA Native Plant Sale
- 14-May-2022 LT Community Well Testing Kit Pickup

- 06-Jun-2022 EOSC Meeting (may be rescheduled)

Open Comment

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission (EOSC)

Meeting Minutes

May 2nd, 2022

Roll Call

EOSC Member	Role	Roll Call
Adam Duckworth	Chairman, Planning Board Liaison	Present
Sharon Petzinger	Member	Present
Warren Newman	Member	Regrets
Erik Jan Henriksen	Member	Present
Nancy Lawler	Member	Present
Kathy Koch	Member	Present
Sharon Hardy	Member	Present
Mike Chen	Alternate 1	Regrets
Marty Collett	Alternate 2	Present

Meeting called to order at 7:04p. In addition to the EOSC members noted above, Mayor Schmidt, Committeeman Laul and LTAA President, Andy Korfin, were in attendance.

A motion to approve April EOSC Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Collett, seconded by Mr. Henriksen and unanimously approved.

LTAA & Sports Field Project at Memorial Park

To accommodate Mr. Korfin, Mr. Duckworth bumped the sports field project to the beginning of the agenda. Mr. Korfin provided some background on the project. Mr. Duckworth described the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP), which outlines the intended use for the land in question. Mayor Schmidt asked about a cost estimate. There is none yet. Ms. Lawler stated that storm water must be kept on the property. Mayor Schmidt asked if specialized equipment would be required, such as a mower that keeps grass short. Mr. Korfin stated LTAA would do all the lining. Mayor Schmidt stated that the open space trust has some monies in it and the approved uses for that money was recently expanded; \$1.3MM is the current balance and then every year we add about \$95K. Should we have the conversation to discuss the strategy for

use of open space? Mayor Schmidt suggested Mr. Korfin talk to Mansfield Township to see about construction and maintenance of their fields. Location of the facility would have to be approved by the Parks Committee with an endorsement by EOSC from an environmental perspective, e.g., stormwater management.

Forest Stewardship Planning

A draft Statement of Work (SOW) was prepared by Don Donnelly from NJ Audubon and was introduced for discussion to Commission members. Mayor Schmidt stated that the Township has existing monies from the Highlands Council for implementation and we might be able to leverage that funding rather than applying for the grant. Members discussed establishing a sub-committee to finalize the work. A motion was introduced to appoint Ms. Lawler, Mr. Duckworth and Ms. Petzinger to a sub-committee to engage Highlands Council, finalize the draft SOW and submit it to Township Committee for review. The motion was made by Mr. Henriksen, seconded by Mr. Collett and unanimously approved.

Fisher/Red Mill Race Preserve Parking Areas

Mayor Schmidt stated the Township is exempt from its own rules as per the Zoning Officer. Impervious surface at Red Mill Race Preserve is not a concern considering there was previously a structure there and we are not expanding beyond that. Anthony Preserve is within the acreage limit. Warren said no additional direction was needed.

Deer Management Program

Mr. Duckworth introduced the topic and stated that EOSC would need to align on any changes to the deer management program and draft a new resolution for the upcoming season. A motion was made to establish a sub-committee of Mr. Duckworth, Mr. Chen and Ms. Petzinger to draft the 2022-2023 resolution for the deer management program. Ms. Petzinger made the motion, it was seconded by Mr. Henriksen and unanimously approved. Target May 25th for a draft to be completed and then the police chief and attorney can look it over.

Spruce Run Watershed Protection Plan

Mr. Duckworth stated that he and Mr. Henriksen attended a meeting with NJWSA representatives that focused specifically on the work to be done in Lebanon Township. There were little details at this time and the initiative was just getting going. No further action required at this time.

NJ State Forest Task Force

Ms. Lawler stated that she attended a presentation on the problem statement. The task force is organized by Senator Smith and coordinated by NJ Conservation Foundation (NJCF),

Audubon, Sierra Club and NJ Forestry Association. There are currently disagreements on forestry approaches and this task force is intended to align stakeholder groups around a common guidance. There were 234 people on this first call. Ms. Petzinger stated there are two working groups: climate change and ecological health. They expect to conclude work by the end of December. A key deliverable is a report documenting all viewpoints. Ms. Lawler is planning to participate in the ecological health working group.

Draft Memorial Policy

Committeeman Laul introduced the intent of Township Committee to create a Memorial Policy and provided an overview of it. Ms. Lawler asked if it excluded real property and land donation. Mr. Duckworth asked about the process for managing the master list of allowable donations. Mr. Collett suggested changing the word "Memorial" to be more general, such as "donation".

The team discussed the rescheduling of the June Regular Meeting due to Mr. Duckworth's unavailability. June 13th or 14th would work for most. The final decision can be made based on availability of the municipal building.

A motion to adjourn at 9:20p was made by Mr. Henriksen, seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.