

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission (EOSC) Agenda

December 5th, 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.

AGENDA

Kickoff & Roll Call

Presentation of Minutes

- May 2022 Regular Meeting
- July 2022 Regular Meeting
- August 2022 Regular Meeting
- September 2022 Regular Meeting
- November 2022 Regular Meeting

Old Business

- Forest stewardship planning (Duckworth, Lawler, Petzinger)
- Red Mill Race parking area (Duckworth, Chen, Collett)

New Business

- 2023 EOSC term renewals (Duckworth)
- Eagle scout project ideas (Duckworth)

Correspondence

- None

Open Comment

Lebanon Township Environmental & Open Space Commission (EOSC)
Meeting Minutes
 December 5th, 2022

Roll Call

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p. In addition to those members mentioned above, Mayor Schmidt was in attendance along with approximately 5 members of the public.

Mr. Duckworth introduced four sets of Meeting Minutes for review and approval.

May 2nd, 2022 Regular Meeting: A motion was made to approve the Meeting Minutes by Ms. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Collet and approved by Mr. Duckworth, Ms. Petzinger and Ms. Koch.

July 12th, 2022 Regular Meeting: A motion was made by Mr. Collett, seconded by Ms. Koch and approved by Mr. Duckworth, Ms. Petzinger and Ms. Lawler.

August 1st, 2022 Regular Meeting: A motion was made by Ms. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Newman and unanimously approved by Ms. Petzinger, Mr. Duckworth and Ms. Koch.

November 7th, 2022 Regular Meeting: A motion was made by Mr. Collett, seconded by Ms. Koch and approved by Mr. Duckworth, Ms. Petzinger and Ms. Lawler.

The approval of September Meeting Minutes was deferred as a quorum of attendees was not present to approve them.

Forest Stewardship Planning

Ms. Petzinger asked if the procurement paperwork had been completed. Mayor Schmidt stated he had talked to the CFO and the CFO was to respond to Mr. Duckworth's question via email. The CFO had stated that NJ Audubon should invoice the Township and then the Township can draw down on the grant money. Mayor Schmidt will follow up with the CFO. Ms. Lawler noted there has been a lot of staff turnover at the NJ Audubon.

Ms. Lawler introduced a representative from the NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA). The representative stated she is working to get funding for the removal of ash trees and also to funnel funding to existing programs from President Biden's American Rescue Plan. She will be meeting with the Executive Director of the Highlands Council regarding forest management. Ms. Petzinger stated she is interested in what the Highlands Council might be funding in the future. She sees opportunities for exclusionary zones (aka. fencing off areas). On a related note, we should plan for another forest walk or similar activity in late spring or early summer of next year.

Red Mill Race Parking Area

Mayor Schmidt agreed to send an email to DPW letting them know Mr. Chen will be acting as a volunteer on behalf of the EOSC to establish a parking area at Red Mill Race Preserve.

2023 EOSC Term Renewals

Mr. Duckworth stated that the appointments for Ms. Petzinger, Mr. Newman and Mr. Chen are up for renewal. Ms. Petzinger and Mr. Newman are interested in reappointments. Mr. Chen has decided not to seek reappointment. This information has been passed on to Ms. Jacobus.

Eagle Scout Project Opportunity

Mr. Duckworth stated he was approached by a Boy Scout seeking to attain Eagle Scout and he was seeking project ideas from EOSC. Mr. Duckworth mentioned trail-building, signage or perhaps a bridge over some washed out areas of the Red Mill Race Preserve trail. Bittersweet cutting and boardwalk expansion were discussed. Ms. Lawler asked if the the Student Conservation Association (SCA) was still active. Mr. Duckworth agreed to summarize ideas and follow up with the boy scout.

Open Comment

Ms. Lawler stated that MWA had a road salt roundtable and suggested everybody listen to it to see if there is anything we can recommend to the Township. Mayor Schmidt stated all the Township is doing at this time is pre-wetting with magnesium chloride. Ms. Lawler will reach out to DPW to understand usage.

She noted a report will be coming out from MWA regarding bacteria levels.

Ms. Lawler mentioned she is on the Environmental Sciences Academy (ESA) Board and recognized ESA student, Nina Weiland, in the audience. Ms. Lawler is Nina's mentor. Nina is interested in how people can compost in their home and has researched ways to compost indoors. For her capstone project, she is planning to establish a community composting program at Voorhees High School. She is still interested in getting the students to help with the list of invasive species and some social media communications, which EOSC had previously discussed with her. EOSC will get Nina a list of the invasives.

Ms. Lawler stated that MWA received \$250K for mill restoration, including sustainable design.

She also provided an update on the Forest Task Force work.

Ms. Koch stated that RHA river testing data is not yet available.

Mayor Schmidt stated that the Township received appraiser proposals for the Nicholson III and Piazza parcels. Township Committee will be reviewing them.

Nina stated ESA is hosting a bat box-building event and they are looking for a speaker. Ms. Petzinger will provide some names.

Mr. Collett agreed to map out a potential hiking trail at Sun Mountain Preserve.

A motion was made by Mr. Collett to adjourn the meeting at 8:10p. It was seconded by Ms. Lawler and unanimously approved.