

Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC) Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:03pm. In addition to the members listed below, Committee Member Schmidt was in attendance and ten (10) members of the public were in the audience.

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.

ROLL CALL

EOSC Member	Role	Roll Call
Sharon Petzinger	Member, Chair	Present
Warren Newman	Member	Absent
Erik Jan Henriksen	Member	Present
Nancy Lawler	Member	Present
Kathy Koch	Member	Present
Sharon Hardy	Member	Present
Linda Ryan	Member, EOSC Planning Board Member	Present
Marty Collett	Alternate I	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Alternate II	-

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The March 2023 Regular Meeting minutes were presented by Ms. Petzinger. Ms. Ryan suggested minor changes to the text. Ms. Koch made the motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Lawler, and unanimously approved.

UPDATES

Ms. Petzinger provided an update on the status of the contract to hire NJ Audubon for the creation of the Lebanon Township Municipal Forest Master Plan.

BUSINESS

Red Mill Race Parking Area

Mr. Collett provided an overview of parking area improvements. The existing impervious surface needs to be levelled out, gravel needs to be laid down, and an Eagle Scout will volunteer to build fencing and signs. Ms. Lawler stated the Eagle Scout is also willing to do trail maintenance if possible, then provided an overview of the ANJEC grant and application process to fund materials for this project. DPW and volunteers will provide in-kind labor.

Ms. Lawler mentioned there is a large patch of bamboo on the property and asked if it should be included in the project. After discussion, EOSC members decided the bamboo treatment should be separate because it may involve the use of herbicide, permits, etc.

Discussion was held the budget for the project and where funds should come from if the grant is not received and/or the project goes over budget. Committeeman Schmidt suggested the CFO decide on where funds should come from. Ms. Hardy and Mr. Collett suggested it come from the Open Space Trust Fund.

Ms. Lawler made a motion to endorse the Township use Open Space Trust Fund money for maintenance/improvement of Red Mill Race Preserve, seconded by Ms. Hardy, and unanimously approved.

ESEA Invasive Species Outreach

Nina, Natalie, and Emma, representatives from the Hunterdon County Environmental Sustainability and Engineering Academy (ESEA), spoke about the ESEA volunteering to help develop and post information on invasive species on social media to help educate the community. They propose creating one post a week that include control methods and possible native replacements. They have a list with 10 invasive plant species and 5 invasive animal species and propose to create content on bamboo first. They propose to post this information using the Lebanon Township Green Team Facebook account, need approval of the content before they do so, and would like to start before the end of the school year.

EOSC members discussed this and decided the ESEA Subcommittee will convene the Green Team together to work on it.

Deer Hunting

Ms. Petzinger went over the 2022/23 municipal deer hunting harvest report and asked how the EOSC can help encourage hunters and increase deer harvest numbers. Some ideas from EOSC members included creating property maps to be handed out with permits, more advertisements, including placing flyers at hunting shops, and increasing parking, such as creating parking along Anthony Road by Anthony Preserve.

NJ DEP NWLS comments

Ms. Petzinger provided an overview of the Natural and Working Lands Strategy draft target actions and suggested the EOSC submit comments, which were due April 14, 2023. [Stakeholder session recordings](#) from the NJ DEP about the NWLS target actions should posted by April 7, 2023. Ms. Lawler volunteered to submit the comments to NJ DEP on behalf of EOSC.

Mr. Collett made a motion for EOSC to submit comments on NWLS draft target list, seconded by Ms. Koch, and unanimously approved.

NJ Forest Task Force/ Proforestation

Ms. Petzinger provided a brief overview of a statement made by Senator Smith regarding the NJ Forest Task Force and the need for more proforestation on publicly owned forests. Ms. Lawler stated that people in Lebanon Township manage forests and EOSC does not agree with proforestation, or not cutting trees for any purpose.

Ms. Petzinger suggested EOSC can submit a letter to Senator Steinhardt and others, and use submitted by the NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society for content.

Mr. Collett made a motion to draft a letter to Senator Steinhardt and attaching the NJ TWS comments to that letter, seconded by Ms. Lawler and unanimously approved.

Grant Opportunities/EOSC Project List

Ms. Petzinger mentioned a draft project list based on a brainstorming activity done by EOSC in 2018 and suggested EOSC members add to it and prioritize the projects. Mr. Collett suggested adding the creation of Lebanon Township specific trail markers.

ANJEC Membership

Ms. Petzinger provided a brief review of the ANJEC membership and mentioned MWA may be able to conduct a septic workshop for Lebanon Township. Mr. Henriksen stated he will know more about that in the coming weeks.

Mr. Collett suggested that the EOSC does not need to renew membership at this time. Ms. Petzinger and Ms. Hardy agreed. There was consensus to revisit ANJEC membership renewal in December

Summer Newsletter

Ms. Petzinger mention the deadline for the summer newsletter is May 1, 2023 and asked for newsletter topic ideas and volunteers. Ms. Lawler stated she will check doing something about bamboo and the website. Other ideas included forestry, bats, and beech leaf disease. Ms. Petzinger agreed to write the articles on forestry, bats, and beech leaf disease.

LIAISON UPDATES

- MWA – Mr. Henriksen provided an update on events at the Musconetcong Watershed Association. The new Island Park is completed, and there will be a river cleanup on April 15, 2023.
- RHA –Ms. Koch provided an updated on events at the Raritan Headwaters Association. They are also holding a river cleanup on April 15, 2023.
- Highlands Council - none
- Planning Board – none
- MRMC - none

OTHER TOPICS/HIGHLIGHTS

- The Lebanon Township Litter Cleanup is being held during the month of April. Bags are located outside the main entrance of the municipal building. Dumpster day at DPW is on April 15 from 8am-1pm. If people do the litter clean up that morning they can bring the garbage to the dumpster. Otherwise volunteers need to dispose of the garbage themselves.
- Hunterdon County Point Mountain will be holding a trail building event April 22, 2023 from 8:30am -12:30pm.
- There looks to be new technology to treat PFAs: <https://techxplore.com/news/2023-03-treatment-zaps-chemicals-good.html>
- Wild Musconetcong exhibit at the Lebanon Township museum will open on April 6.

Mr. Collett made a motion to open public comment, seconded by Ms. Koch, and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Lewis would like to include tires in dumpster day for public, not businesses, and would like to see more outreach for the litter cleanup. Committeeman Schmidt suggested that EOOSC can recommend a dumpster for tires for next dumpster day in the fall.

Ms. Koch made a motion to close public comment, seconded by Ms. Hardy and unanimously approved.

Mr. Henriksen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Lawler and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.