

**Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)
August 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Amended 11/6/2023)**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:06pm. In addition to the members listed below, Committee Member Schmidt was in attendance and one (1) member 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	Absent
Nancy Lawler	Member	Present
Kathy Koch	Member	Present
Sharon Hardy	Member	Present
Linda Ryan	Member, EOSC Planning Board Member	Absent
Marty Collett	Alternate I	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Alternate II	-

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The July 2023 Regular Meeting minutes with changes suggested were presented by Ms. Petzinger. Mr. Collett made the motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Koch, and unanimously approved.

UPDATES

Ms. Petzinger provided an update on the Lebanon Township Municipal Forest Master Plan. NJ Audubon completed the forest inventory on Township Open Space properties but it will take some time before the data are summarized. Ms. Lawler stated she will provide an update to the Highlands Council staff.

Ms. Koch presented the results of the well testing in Lebanon Township. In total, 77 households purchased 83 test kits and 81 were submitted for testing. Results had several positive hits for radon, but no arsenic was detected. Many households tested positive for lead which is indicative of old houses/plumbing. Eight wells tested positive for coliform bacteria, which is relatively low, and no PFAS/PFOS were detected in the three wells tested. Ms. Lawler asked if EOSC had written a newsletter article, emphasizing lead and any specific clusters in and around

the Township. She suggested we find out where there are data gaps in well testing results. Ms. Koch replied she may write an article as an interview with a water quality specialist. Committeeman Schmidt suggested this information be written for the spring newsletter since the well testing is in May.

Ms. Lawler spoke about a septic workshop MWA is hosting Saturday, September 9 from 10am-12:30pm. The cost is \$50 per participant to learn how to inspect your own septic tank. EOSC members then discussed how to advertise this workshop to residents. Some options suggested include posting on Green Team Facebook and Lebanon Township group Facebook as well as handing out fliers. Ms. Petzinger asked if there is a cap to the number of participants. Ms. Lawler responded that she will find out.

Ms. Petzinger provided an update on the deer hunting resolution. The press release for deer hunting on Lebanon Township open space properties will be published in the Hunterdon Review this Thursday and went out on the group Facebook pages from the Township Facebook account. Ms. Lawler volunteered to post information on the Green Team Facebook page.

BUSINESS

Township Open Space Access Mapping

Ms. Constance Grill volunteered to scout the access and parking areas for Township open space properties and outlined the results.

- 1) Sun Mountain Preserve has a single access point at the dead end of Sun Mountain St that can fit 3 cars. The trail begins at the end of this street as well.
- 2) Red Mill Race Preserve has a parking area that can fit a couple cars, but it looks like some debris near the road can be removed to expand the parking area. Parking can also occur in some areas along Red Mill Rd, possibly for 2-3 cars, but there is a drop off from the pavement to the shoulder which may be a concern for smaller cars.
 - a. There were questions about nearby Hendra property and its preservation status. It has a conservation easement and is not Township property, though the Township has a right of first refusal if the property is sold. There is a 40-50ft wide path to Mt. Airy Rd that is public, but it needs to be surveyed and posted before it can be advertised.
- 3) Woodglen-Miquin Trail has parking for about 3 cars and the trail begins at the parking area. If the Woodglen-Miquin Trail connects to Miquin Woods that parking area can be used as well, but the trails do not connect at this time. Boy Scout Rd can provide access but is a private road.
- 4) Anthony Preserve has parking for at least 4 cars at the cul-de-sac on Flintlock Place and there is access from there, though part of it is mowed as lawn. There is also potential access along Anthony Rd but the area currently does not appear to have safe places to pull off. Shady Ln is a private road and can provide public access as well since the township owns frontage on the private road, but there are no parking areas there and cars cannot park along the side of the narrow road.

Ms. Petzinger introduced maps containing all of the parking and access areas for each property Ms. Grill assessed and proposed they be posted on the Township website ASAP after EOSC members review and vote on them. EOSC members suggested changing the property boundary colors to make it easier to see on the map, separate the parking icons to differentiate roadside parking from parking areas, and making a deer hunting icon for the properties where hunting is allowed with a permit. There was also discussion about whether to advertise access to Anthony Preserve from Shady Ln, and the decision was to not do so until there is a parking area on Township property there.

Ms. Lawler made a motion to make the Township open space maps public after the suggested changes were made. The motion was seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.

Red Mill Race Parking Area Resolution

Ms. Petzinger went over the draft resolution requesting the Township Committee to reconsider potential parking area improvements in light of potential authorizations via permits-by-rule and to authorize the Township Engineer to review the legal permit exemptions, work with the EOSC, and keep the DPW supervisor informed. Ms. Petzinger stated that it was in the format of a resolution instead of a letter because a resolution is a familiar format that is easier to read and emphasize points, especially for the Township Engineer and Attorney.

Ms. Lawler made a motion to approve the draft resolution and send it to the Township Committee for consideration at the next Township Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Collett, and unanimously approved.

LIAISON UPDATES

- MWA – Ms. Lawler mentioned that on August 24, MWA will be conducting a spot check of salt levels in drinking water near the Musconetcong River. They are looking for volunteers to provide water samples.
- RHA – Ms. Koch stated there are no updates other than the well test results she already updated EOSC members on.
- MRMC – Ms. Lawler stated that there are no updates.
- Highlands Council – Committeeman Schmidt stated that there are no updates.
- Planning Board – Ms. Ryan was absent.

OTHER TOPICS/HIGHLIGHTS

- Mr. Collett mentioned LTAA is pursuing the field hockey field in Memorial Park.
- Ms. Lawler mentioned Ms. Weiland sent regrets for not attending the meeting.
- Ms. Petzinger stated the next EOSC meeting has been changed to Sept 12.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Grill stated that EOSC members did a great job.

Ms. Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Collett and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm.