

**Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)
October 2, 2023 Agenda**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:01pm. In addition to the members listed below one (1) member of the public was 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	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Member	-
Nancy Roberts-Lawler	Member	Absent
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 September 2023 Regular Meeting minutes were presented by Ms. Petzinger. Mr. Collett made the motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Newman, and unanimously approved with one abstention.

UPDATES

Ms. Petzinger stated that Erik Jan Henriksen submitted his official resignation from the EOSC on October 1, 2023.

BUSINESS

Recommendations to fill vacant EOSC positions

Ms. Petzinger stated there are now two vacancies on the EOSC: Mr. Henriksen’s recently vacated regular member 3-year term that will expire 12/31/23 and the vacant Alternate II term that will expire 12/31/24. Mr. Collett is currently in the Alternate I position, stated he would accept a regular member position, and will submit an updated Citizen Leadership form.

Mr. Newman made a motion to recommend to the Mayor that Marty Collett be appointed to Mr. Henriksen’s unexpired regular member term. The motion was seconded by Ms. Koch and unanimously approved.

Ms. Petzinger stated that if Mr. Collett is appointed as a regular member, then the Alternate I position, which expires 12/31/23, will be vacant as well as the Alternate II position. Two people

have expressed interest in being appointed to the EOSC: Nina Weiland & Constance Grill. Ms. Weiland will be 18 years old prior to the next Township Committee meeting.

Ms. Koch made a motion to recommend to the Mayor that Constance Grill be appointed to the Alternate I position, contingent upon Mr. Collett's appointment as a regular member. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newman and unanimously approved.

Mr. Newman made a motion to recommend to the Mayor that Nina Weiland be appointed to the Alternate II position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collett and unanimously approved.

Lebanon Township Municipal Forest Stewardship Master Plan

Ms. Petzinger stated there are multiple topics for the EOSC to continue to discuss and possibly vote on regarding the Lebanon Township Municipal Forest Stewardship Master Plan (LT MFSMP).

Definition for technical stakeholders to include in the stakeholder list. A technical stakeholder would be an organization that conducts long-term scientific research and/or implements forest, wetland, or habitat restoration projects relevant to a forest stewardship goal with an expertise that EOSC members and NJ Audubon (the foresters hired to draft the plan) do not possess and/or need assistance with. Example: A goal of enhancing streams for trout production could warrant the inclusion of an organization like Trout Unlimited as a technical stakeholder.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Collett to table voting on the technical stakeholder definition until it is determined that a technical stakeholder is needed, which would be after public feedback on the draft goals. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hardy and unanimously approved.

Draft goals for the LT MFSMP. Ms. Petzinger provided an overview of the recommendations provided by NJ Audubon which included climate resiliency/forest health, invasive plants, overabundant deer, recreation, and wildlife diversity. She then went over the results of the anonymous online survey EOSC members took to select the most important services and concerns in Lebanon Township. After discussion, it was decided that the following top four services and top four concerns voted on by EOSC in the survey, which also aligned with the recommendations provided by NJ Audubon, would be recommended as possible draft goals for the LT MFSMP:

- 1) Water quality (erosion/buffers)
- 2) Passive outdoor recreation (hiking/wildlife viewing)
- 3) Water availability (groundwater recharge)
- 4) Wildlife diversity
- 5) Exotic invasive plants
- 6) Overabundant deer
- 7) Forests pests/diseases
- 8) Climate resiliency

Ms. Koch made a motion to move forward with the eight draft goals, seconded by Mr. Collett, and unanimously approved.

Using the survey to obtain feedback from residents and stakeholders on the draft goals. Ms. Petzinger solicited feedback about the anonymous online survey EOSC members took on the draft goals. After discussions, there was general consensus that the survey method would still be a good avenue for public input and should be pursued but needs to be more public-friendly. Ms. Petzinger stated she will work with individuals on the EOSC to decide on the survey format and content after the Township Committee, Planning Board, and NJ Water Supply Authority are provided a chance to review the goals and the process.

Stakeholder list and definitions. Ms. Petzinger provided a summary of the previous meeting's discussion on the stakeholders and stakeholder definitions to decide who to include in the process of creating the LT MFSMP.

- 1) Decision-makers: Entities within Lebanon Township with some type of decision-making authority on Township-owned open space are part of the entire process and will have the opportunity to participate prior to any other stakeholder if they choose:
 - a. Lebanon Township Committee
 - b. Lebanon Township Planning Board
 - c. Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (coordinator)
 - d. New Jersey Water Supply Authority (co-owner of properties)
- 2) Residents: Lebanon Township residents and the main constituents of the LT MFSMP
- 3) Partner Groups: Local groups/agencies that work closely with Lebanon Township and/or the EOSC through liaisons:
 - a. Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee
 - b. Musconetcong Watershed Association
 - c. Raritan Headwaters Association

Ms. Koch made a motion to approve stakeholder list above, seconded by Ms. Hardy, and unanimously approved.

Stakeholder outreach process. Ms. Petzinger provided a summary of the previous meeting's discussion on the stakeholder outreach process to decide on how to provide information and solicit feedback from the different stakeholders as it pertains to the LT MFSMP.

- Decision-makers will be provided with information via email and have the opportunity to respond via email or through official discussion and/or approval at their meeting.
 - The next Planning Board meeting is on Oct. 17. Ms. Petzinger will provide Ms. Ryan with information about the draft goals and process for the Planning Board chair to consider whether to add it to the agenda.
 - The next Township Committee meeting is on Oct. 18. Ms. Petzinger will provide the Township Committee with the draft goals and process to consider adding to the agenda.
 - Ms. Petzinger will provide Ms. Roberts-Lawler with information about the draft goals and process for the NJ Water Supply Authority to consider commenting on.

- Residents will be provided information through the Township Newsletter, website, and posts on local Facebook groups. Solicitation for feedback will be done through an online survey and an invitation to attend EOSC meetings in person or email EOSC.
 - The Newsletter deadline is Nov 1. Pending endorsement from the decision-makers, EOSC members can draft an article about the draft LT MFSMP goals, a brief summary of the process, reasons, and definitions, and a link to the online survey.
- Partner Conservation groups will be provided information through email and solicitation for feedback will be done through an online survey and an invitation to attend EOSC meetings in person or email EOSC. The email to this stakeholder group should be sent the same time residents are notified.

Ms. Ryan made a motion to approve the stakeholder outreach process outlined above, seconded by Mr. Collett, and unanimously approved.

Newsletter articles

1. Well testing results: Ms. Koch will write an article with RHA staff regarding four major concerns (lead, radon, etc.), what to do about it, and will provide links/QR codes on where to get more information
2. Forest goals: Pending feedback from decision-makers, Ms. Petzinger will write an article about draft LT MFSMP goals, a brief summary of the process, reasons, and definitions, and a link to the online survey.
3. Road salt: Ms. Petzinger will ask Ms. Roberts-Lawler to write a brief article on the road salt results and commend DPW on the reduction of road salt use.
4. Septic Care: Ms. Petzinger will write an article about the information she obtained while attending the septic workshop.

LIAISON UPDATES

- MWA – No liaison
- RHA – Ms. Koch stated nothing new outside the well testing results newsletter article
- MRMC – Ms. Roberts-Lawler was absent.
- Highlands Council – Committee Member Schmidt was absent.
- Planning Board – Ms. Ryan mentioned the re-examination report review of the Master Plan will be sent by the planner to the Planning Board subcommittee soon.

OTHER TOPICS/HIGHLIGHTS

- Correspondence – The EOSC received one letter regarding an application for a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit # 8 (GP8) and Transition Area Waiver. Ms. Koch volunteered to look into it further.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public provided comments.

Ms. Hardy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.