

**Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)  
February 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:06 pm. No members of the public were in the audience. Andy Huston came and asked questions about preserving his property, then left before meeting started.

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**

<b>EOSC Member</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>
Sharon Petzinger	Member, Chair, MRMC Alternate	Present
Warren Newman	Member	Absent
Marty Collett	Member	Present
Nancy Roberts-Lawler	Member, MRMC Councilor, MWA liaison	Absent
Constance Grill	Member	Absent
Sharon Hardy	Member, RHA Liaison	Present
Linda Ryan	Member, EOSC Planning Board Member	Present
Vacant	Alternate I	-
Nina Weiland	Alternate II	Present

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

There was no quorum to approve the minutes from the January 2024 Regular Meeting.

**UPDATES**

Ms. Petzinger provided updates to members of the EOSC. A guidance document on the process to acquire properties with Green Acres funds was provided to Committee Member McKee as well as where each of the 4 properties the Township has been pursuing for open space acquisition is in that process. The Piazza/Lopes/Adickes property is close to final step.

The Township’s Volunteer Picnic will be held on June 8, 2024 at the Memorial Park Pavilion.

**BUSINESS**

**Municipal Forest Stewardship Master Plan forest goals and public outreach**

Ms. Petzinger went over the stakeholder process the EOSC voted on in October 2023. Once decision-makers endorse the draft goals, the EOSC will use the newsletter, website, and Facebook to provide information on draft goals and solicit feedback.

For the decision-makers, the NJ Water Supply Authority provided comments and the forest goals are on the Planning Board agenda for the Feb. 6 meeting and the Township Committee agenda for the Feb. 7 meeting. If approved by both the EOSC can move on to next step of

soliciting feedback from residents and stakeholders. Since the spring newsletter will not be sent out this year, the EOSC will need to send mailers to residents to provide information and solicit feedback. The EOSC will request approval to do this at the Feb. 7 meeting. If approved, the EOSC will need to create and send the mailer/survey content quickly.

EOSC members reviewed the online survey questions and discussed revisions and next steps.

*Mr. Collett made motion to authorize the forest plan subcommittee to complete the content for the mailers, survey, and website and send the mailers to residents and stakeholders per the approved process. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ryan and unanimously approved.*

### **Plant Swap**

Ms. Ryan stated that she, Ms. Roberts-Lawler, and resident volunteer Michele Reavey met about the Plant Swap. The Plant Swap will be for native plants and garden vegetables only and a tentative date for June 1 is being held at the Memorial Park Pavilion. Ms. Roberts-Lawler will provide a list of which plants are native vs invasive to those in attendance.

*Ms. Ryan made motion to hold a native plant and garden vegetable swap at the Memorial Park pavilion on June 1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Collett and unanimously approved.*

EOSC members discussed ways to conduct outreach for the Plant Swap in the absence of the Spring Newsletter. Mailers are expensive so the use of fliers, website, and Facebook will be used instead. Ms. Weiland stated FFA students can also help. Ms. Petzinger volunteered to discuss the Plant Swap at the February 21 committee meeting and request office staff assist with printing fliers. Mr. Collett volunteered to post information on the virtual backpack for Woodglen and Valley View schools for parents to see.

### **Well Testing**

Ms. Hardy stated that Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) needs a representative to attend the well testing. The tentative available dates are May 11 from 9am-12pm for kit sales with a return date on Monday May 13 from 7-930 am and a backup return date of May 16 from 7-930 am.

*Ms. Hardy made motion to hold well testing at Municipal Building on May 11, with pick up dates May 13 and 16 as backup, seconded by Mr. Collett and unanimously approved.*

EOSC members discussed ways to conduct outreach for the Well Testing in the absence of the Spring Newsletter. RHA can send postcards to 611 residents for \$142 and supply road signs to the EOSC a week prior. EOSC members decided to not create and send mailers and instead print fliers, post on Facebook and website, and borrow the RHA road signs. Ms. Petzinger volunteered to discuss the Well Testing at the February 21 committee meeting and request office staff assist with printing fliers. Mr. Collett volunteered to post information on the virtual backpack for Woodglen and Valley View schools for parents to see.

## **Stormwater Management**

S. Petzinger went over the draft memo to the Township Committee outlining concerns and questions about the example community-wide ordinances for stormwater management. EOSC members reviewed the memo and suggested edits.

*Mr. Collett made motion to have a subcommittee revise the memo without changing the content and sent to the Township Committee, seconded by Ms. Hardy, and unanimously approved.*

## **LIAISON UPDATES**

- MWA – Ms. Roberts-Lawler was absent
- RHA – Ms. Hardy provided an update under business
- MRMC – Ms. Petzinger stated she went to the new councilor orientation. The next MRMC meeting is Feb 20.
- Highlands Council – Committee Member McKee was absent but provided an update via email which Ms. Petzinger read. Judy Thornton, the Highlands Council's liaison for Lebanon Township, retired after 32 years. The public hearing for the Highlands Council Regional Master Plan amendments is open. The proposed amendments pertain to warehouse standards and updating the land use capability zone map with FEMA floodwater and other data. The public hearings will be held locally on Feb. 21, 2024 and written comments may be submitted to the NJ Highland Council. Ms. Petzinger volunteered to email EOSC members more specific information should anyone wish to attend the public hearings as a resident.
- Planning Board – Ms. Ryan stated the Planning Board hired a new attorney and the forest goals are on the agenda for the Feb. 6 meeting.

## **OTHER TOPICS/HIGHLIGHTS**

- Member Roundtable – Ms. Weiland stated national FFA week is the end of Feb. and they will be collecting bath products. They are also planning a career fair on March 1 at Voorhees High School.

*Ms. Hardy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.*