

**Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)  
March 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:11 pm. No members of the public were in the audience. Committee Member McKee was also present.

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	Present
Warren Newman	Member	Present
Marty Collett	Member	Present
Nancy Roberts-Lawler	Member, MRMC Councilor	Absent
Constance Grill	Member	Present
Sharon Hardy	Member	Present
Linda Ryan	Member, EOSC Planning Board Member	Present
Vacant	Alternate I	-
Nina Weiland	Alternate II	Absent

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

The January 2024 Regular Meeting minutes were presented by Ms. Petzinger.

*Ms. Grill and Ms. Ryan suggested edits to the minutes. Ms. Hardy made a motion to accept the January meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved with two abstentions (Mr. Newman and Mr. Collett).*

The February 2024 Regular Meeting minutes were presented by Ms. Petzinger.

*Mr. Collett made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved with two abstentions (Ms. Grill and Mr. Newman).*

**UPDATES**

Mr. McKee provided an update about open space. The agreement with Green Acres for \$350K for open space acquisition was signed and \$700K remains in the Green Acres fund. The environmental assessment on the Piazza property found remnant containers, debris piles, and structures on the property. The assessment also noted concerns about possible past pesticide use on the property so soil testing may need to be done. The Township Attorney will reach out to landowners to conduct the negotiations about the removal of those items, etc. and the purchase of the property. Mr. McKee stated he also reached out to the appraiser of the Huston property to confirm the value..

A past referendum was approved for the use of the Township Open Space Tax for maintenance as well as acquisition of open space properties, including parks and historical buildings. The Township Committee will need to allocate funds accordingly each year and will discuss it further at the next meeting. The EOSC and other committees can make a wish list of projects (i.e. invasive plant control) to provide to the Township Committee.

Ms. Petzinger provided an update that the draft forest goals were approved by both the Planning Board and Township Committee. Information was posted on the Township website and the postcard has been mailed and will be emailed to stakeholders. Responses will be due on March 22, 2024.

Ms. Petzinger also mentioned that the Township Litter Cleanup will be throughout the month of April 2024. Residents will be able to adopt a mile of township road to clean up litter any time in the month of April. Ms. Naccarato from the Recreation Committee will help to coordinate volunteers.

## **BUSINESS**

Ms. Hardy provided an update on the Township well testing event with Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA). RHA will send flyers which includes the list of testing options. The EOSC will begin advertising well testing a few weeks prior to the event (mid-April), post on website, Facebook, and have fliers printed. Road signs provided by RHA will be set up a week before.

Ms. Ryan provided an update about the Plant Swap. She stated that Ms. Roberts-Lawler will have a list of invasive plants and will try to have a master gardener to do a demonstration for the event. Ms. Weiland may be able to make a flier. Mr. Newman suggested a colleague may be able to volunteer to present about backyard habitats and invasive plants. The EOSC should start advertising the event at least 3 weeks ahead of time. Ms. Petzinger will reserve the pavilion at Memorial Park for the entire day on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **LIAISON UPDATES**

- MWA - liaison absent.
- RHA – Mr. McKee mentioned that RHA received a grant from the Highlands Council for a watershed protection plan and the first meeting will be on March 27 at 4pm. Ms. Petzinger stated she will send out the information.
- MRMC – Ms. Petzinger stated the MRMC meeting was held on Feb 20; Alan Hunt, the administrator for the MRMC is leaving and Tom D’Alessio will be the new administrator until a replacement is hired.
- Highlands Council – Public hearings for the Regional Master Plan amendments were completed in Feb. Ms. Ryan stated the Township Planner will probably update the Planning Board at their next meeting

- Planning Board – Ms. Ryan stated the Planning Board is working on a professional services contract template.

*Mr. Collett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hardy, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.*