

Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)

May 6, 2024 Meeting Notes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:14 pm. No 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	Present
Marty Collett	Member	Absent
Nancy Roberts-Lawler	Member, MRMC Councilor	Present
Constance Grill	Member	Present
Sharon Hardy	Member	Present
Linda Ryan	Member, EOOSC Planning Board Member	Present
Vacant	Alternate I	-
Nina Weiland	Alternate II	Present

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Voting on the April 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum.

UPDATES

Ms. Hardy stated that the road signs from Raritan Headwaters advertising the well testing event were set out. Ms. Petzinger stated she posted the information on the local Facebook groups. Ms. Grill and Ms. Ryan will arrive for the well testing at 8:30am and Mr. Newman and Ms. Hardy will arrive later.

Ms. Roberts Lawler stated the Plant Swap is set for June 1 from 10am to noon and she is compiling lists of native plants for gardens. There will also be allotted times for presenters and a Google Form for people to sign up with which plants they are bringing. Ms. Weiland stated one representative from the student FFA should attend.

Ms. Petzinger mentioned that in the absence of the Township Newsletter the EOOSC should provide information to the public through the Township’s website and the Township Committee will help direct people to go there for information.

Ms. Roberts-Lawler stated that the Musconetcong Watershed Association is updating their Vision Plan and creating a watershed planning process under the Clean Water Act. They have

completed data collection and stakeholder feedback, and the goals are now under review by stakeholders. Ms. Roberts-Lawler provided comments on behalf of the EOSC.

Ms. Roberts-Lawler stated that Raritan Headwaters is creating a Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for the Raritan Watershed. They are seeking projects in the Raritan Watershed related to environmental construction. One project could involve stormwater mgmt. projects to alleviate ponding/flooding after heavy rainfall.

Ms. Roberts-Lawler stated that the NJ Water Supply Authority is creating a Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for the Spruce Run & Mulhockaway. They need locations of stormwater infrastructure and where flooding occurs. Mr. Newman mentioned there's a table that identifies parcels in the flood-prone areas.

Ms. Petzinger mentioned that the next stakeholder comment period for the proposed revisions to the Green Acres Rules is open. They are holding information sessions and accepting comments during virtual meetings on May 28. Written comments will be accepted afterwards as well.

Ms. Petzinger mentioned that all of the proposed stormwater ordinances were approved. The amended tree replacement included a revised list of trees and many of the current exemptions in tree existing tree ordinance were incorporated.

BUSINESS

Deer Hunting Resolution: Ms. Petzinger provided an overview of the deer harvest reports on Township open-space properties. Nine people hunted the properties and harvested 5 deer in total. The lottery for fall bow will occur in August so the resolution for the 2024-25 hunting season should be approved in July. EOSC members discussed options to help increase the number of deer harvested.

Ms. Grill made a motion to recommend not making any major revisions to the current deer resolution for next deer hunting season, and recommended the EOSC and the Township advertise more about deer hunting on township lands. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hardy and unanimously approved.

Trail creation/maintenance: Ms. Petzinger stated that \$25k has been allocated in the Open Space Trust Fund that the EOSC can use for trails. Woodglen-Miquin Trail is a priority because the purpose of purchasing the property was to connect to Miquin Woods, and there is already a boardwalk trail on part of the property. However, there are wetlands on that property so finishing the trails there may be more cumbersome. Upland areas within Anthony Preserve would be another option. Ms. Roberts-Lawler suggested some of the money can be used to

bring in the Student Conservation Association, Metrotrails, and/or Trail Associations to build the trails. Boy Scouts or FFA could be another option.

Ms. Roberts-Lawler made a motion to create an official trail on Anthony Preserve off Flintlock Place and investigate what's needed to complete the Woodglen-Miquin Trail. The motion was seconded Ms. Grill and unanimously approved.

LIAISON UPDATES

- MWA – Ms. Roberts-Lawler provided this update in the Updates Section above. Their native plant sale this Saturday.
- RHA – Ms. Hardy provided this update in the Updates Section above.
- MRMC – Ms. Roberts-Lawler stated their next meeting next week.
- Highlands Council – Mr. McKee was not present.
- Planning Board – Ms. Ryan did not have anything to report

Ms. Roberts-Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm.