

**Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)
September 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:09 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 except for September where it was noticed the regular meeting would be held the second Tuesday.

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	Absent
Constance Grill	Member	Present
Sharon Hardy	Member	Absent
Linda Ryan	Member, EOSC Planning Board Member	Present
Celia Vuocolo	Alternate I	Absent
Nina Weiland	Alternate II	Present

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the August 2024 Regular Meeting were tabled due to lack of quorum to approve the minutes.

UPDATES

Ms. Petzinger stated she spoke with Committee Member McKee and the Township decided to not move forward with acquiring open space properties, including the Piazza/Adickes/Lopez property.

BUSINESS

NJ Resilient Environments and Landscapes (NJREAL) Proposed Rule: Ms. Petzinger provided an overview of the draft comments on the NJREAL rule proposal prepared by the subcommittee. EOSC members discussed the draft comments and suggested changes to the content based on the discussion.

Mr. Newman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Grill, to accept the comments as amended and send to the Township Committee after additional revisions were made to correct minor typographical errors. The motion was unanimously approved.

Trail Creation/maintenance: Ms. Petzinger provided information about trail creation/maintenance on Township-owned open space. Increasing trail access was supported by the majority of residents who responded to the forest goal survey and is something the EOSC discussed and voted to explore further for Anthony Preserve – Flintlock Place and Woodglen-Miquin Trail. Given the proposed changes to the permit-by-rule for trail creation and footbridges in the flood hazard rules may be in effect next year, EOSC members agreed it may be more efficient to create the trails before the proposed changes take effect.

Anthony Preserve has trail access at the cul-de-sac of Flintlock Place. The wetlands on the property have a 150-ft regulated transition area, the flood hazard area only applies to the streams near Anthony Rd, and there are no mapped vernal pools. Based on the mapping, a 1 or 2-mile loop trail can be created outside the regulated areas with the access off the Flintlock Place cul-de-sac.

Woodglen-Miquin Trail is still noticeable but overgrown. The existing boardwalk on part of the trail is mostly in good condition but some areas need repair. The trail ends abruptly without access to Miquin Woods or a loop. A general permit will likely be needed to create a trail/boardwalk in the wetland and 150-ft transition area as well as two footbridges in order to get to the nearest established trail on Miquin Woods. There is no permit fee needed for permits on public lands. There is also a possibility to create a 1/2-mile loop trail outside the regulated areas without the need for permits.

EOSC members discussed options for trail creation. The EOSC will need to purchase trail markers and pick a date for volunteers to either create a trail off Flintlock Place or conduct trail maintenance along the existing Woodglen-Miquin Trail. Volunteer work events would need to be announced publicly at a Committee Meeting. EOSC members decided to find out more information about what would be needed for a volunteer trail maintenance/creation event and discuss again at the next meeting.

Planning through December 2024: Ms. Petzinger stated she received the approved 2024 EOSC budget and there is approximately \$2,900 remaining.

- Joining ANJEC and booking a roadshow with them was part of the budget, but it may be too late for that. EOSC members discussed options. Ms. Petzinger will reach out to ANJEC to determine if membership can be from October 2024 through October 2025 and if not, if fees can be prorated, and whether ANJEC would be capable of doing a septic roadshow before the end of 2024.
- The draft forest master plan will not likely be completed until the end of 2024, so the public meetings anticipated for that in Nov/Dec will likely be pushed to next year.

EOSC members discussed other items budgeted in the EOSC agenda. Trail markers and other materials, such as wood to repair the existing boardwalk on Woodglen-Miquin Trail, should also be purchased to maintain the Woodglen-Miquin Trail. A sandwich board to advertise EOSC events such as well testing and plant swap would also be useful.

LIAISON UPDATES

- MWA – Ms. Roberts-Lawler was absent.
- RHA – Ms. Hardy was absent.
- MRMC – Ms. Roberts-Lawler was absent.
- Highlands Council – Mr. McKee was absent
- Planning Board – Ms. Ryan stated there was nothing to report. The next Planning Board meeting will be on September 17, 2024.

Mr. Newman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.