

**Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)
December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:08 pm. Committee Member McKee was also present. 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	Absent
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
Celia Vuocolo	Alternate I	Present
Nina Weiland	Alternate II	Absent

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

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

Ms. Grill made a motion to accept the October meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved with two abstentions.

BUSINESS

Expiring EOSC Terms: Ms. Petzinger stated that the terms of two members and one alternate were expiring in 2024: Ms. Roberts-Lawler, Ms. Hardy, and Ms. Weiland. Ms. Roberts-Lawler and Ms. Hardy both expressed a desire to serve another term. Ms. Weiland was absent.

Mr. Collett made a motion to recommend Ms. Roberts-Lawler for another term as EOSC member, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Collett made a motion to recommend Ms. Hardy for another term as EOSC member, seconded by Ms. Grill, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Hardy made a motion to recommend Ms. Weiland for another term as EOSC Alternate II if she desires to serve, seconded by Ms. Grill, and unanimously approved.

2025 Meeting Dates: EOSC members discussed potential meeting dates for 2025. Ms. Petzinger stated that the Township Re-org meeting will be held Friday, January 3, 2025 so the EOSC can meet on Monday, January 6, 2025. There was general consensus for the EOSC to continue to

meet 1st Monday of the month except June (2nd Tues), July (2nd Tues), Sept (2nd Tues) and Nov (2nd Tues). The proposed meeting dates would be as follows:

- Mon, Jan 6, 2025
- Mon, Feb 3, 2025
- Mon, Mar 3, 2025
- Mon, April 7, 2025
- Mon, May 5, 2025
- Tues, Jun 10, 2025
- Tues, July 15 2025
- Mon, Aug 4, 2025
- Tues, Sept 9, 2025
- Mon, Oct 6, 2025
- Tues, Nov 11, 2025
- Mon, Dec 1, 2025

Mr. Collett made a motion for the EOSC to continue to meet the 1st Monday of the month except June (2nd Tues), July (2nd Tues), Sept (2nd Tues) and Nov (2nd Tues), seconded by Ms. Grill, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Petzinger stated she will provide these dates to the Township Clerk for public notice.

Subcommittees: EOSC members reviewed the list of subcommittees to determine if any member desired to change subcommittee assignments for 2025.

2024 Annual Report: Ms. Petzinger stated that the EOSC needs to produce an annual report for the Township Committee and went over the 2024 report. Ms. Petzinger, Ms. Grill, and Ms. Vuocolo volunteered to be on the subcommittee to draft the annual report for EOSC review and endorsement at the February 2025 EOSC meeting.

2025 Budget: Ms. Petzinger stated that the EOSC needs to produce a budget for 2025 by February and went over the 2024 budget and expenditures. Ms. Petzinger, Ms. Grill, and Mr. Collett volunteered to be on the subcommittee to draft a budget for EOSC review and endorsement at the February 2025 EOSC meeting. Ms. Grill stated she will obtain quotes to purchase signs.

Possible open space violation: Committee Member McKee provided an overview of concerns he received from NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) on Sun Mountain Preserve. Ms. Petzinger stated that a concern sent by NJWSA authority the previous year was forwarded to the Township Police Department to investigate. After discussion, it was determined that the EOSC needed more information and will wait for the official report from NJWSA before determining if any action is to be taken by the EOSC.

Trail creation/maintenance: Ms. Petzinger and Ms. Grill provided an overview of the draft proposal to create a new trail on Anthony Preserve and maintain the existing trail on Woodglen-Miquin Trail. EOSC members discussed the proposal and suggested changes.

Mr. Collett made a motion to endorse trail creation on Anthony Preserve at Flintlock Place and trail maintenance on Woodglen-Miquin Trail, seconded by Ms. Grill, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Petzinger stated she will make the suggested changes and provide the proposal to the Township Committee for discussion and endorsement at the December 18, 2024 meeting.

LIAISON UPDATES-

- MWA – Ms. Petzinger relayed information from Ms. Roberts-Lawler that MWA is requesting access to the museum for water testing for bacteria. Committee Member McKee suggested they coordinate with the DPW supervisor for access.
- RHA – Ms. Hardy stated there is nothing to report.
- MRMC – Ms. Petzinger relayed information from Ms. Roberts-Lawler that there is nothing to report.
- Highlands Council – Committee Member McKee mentioned that the Highlands Council is providing mapping to help plan the fair share housing obligation in the Township.
- Planning Board – Ms. Ryan stated there is nothing to report. Ms. Petzinger mentioned that the EOSC can assist the Planning Board on evaluating sites for affordable housing if needed.

OTHER TOPICS/HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. Hardy mentioned that a mailer from NRCS was sent with information about provision of technical and financial assistance. She also mentioned she met some people who may be willing to help with or teach about native plants at the next native plant swap.

Ms. Petzinger mentioned that she met the chair of the Environmental Commission in Byram and they are interested in more information about forest stewardship.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.