

**Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC)
February 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Petzinger at 7:09pm. Committee member Webb was in attendance. 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 with the exception of January, June, July, September, and November.

ROLL CALL

EOSC Member	Role	Roll Call
Sharon Petzinger	Member, Chair, MRMC Councilor	Present
Celia Vuocolo	Member	Present
Constance Grill	Member	Present
Linda Ryan	Member, EOSC Planning Board Member	Present
Marty Collett	Member	Present
Nancy Roberts-Lawler	Member, MRMC Alternate	Present
Paige Buzard	Member	Absent
Andy Kozlowski	Alternate I	Present
Vacant	Alternate II	n/a

MEETING MINUTES

The January 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes were presented by Ms. Petzinger.

Ms. Roberts-Lawler made a motion to approve the January 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Vuocolo, and unanimously approved with two abstentions.

UPDATES

Ms. Petzinger stated that the Forest Master Plan and Anthony Preserve Plan were deemed complete by the Highlands Council staff, but they also made a request that is confusing. Ms. Roberts-Lawler offered to contact Allison Bittner, Highlands Council Municipal Liaison, for clarification.

Ms. Petzinger stated that the NJ invasive species legislation recently passed. The legislation prohibits the sale, distribution, import, export, and propagation of certain invasive plant species

without a permit from the Department of Agriculture. It also reestablishes a permanent New Jersey Invasive Species Council. Running bamboo is on the list of prohibited invasive species, even though it was deemed not invasive by the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team.

BUSINESS

Posting EOSC Agenda

Ms. Petzinger emailed the Township Clerk to inquire whether there are any requirements to post the EOSC agenda prior to EOSC meetings. The Clerk advised that there is no requirement to publicly post an agenda prior to each EOSC meeting, but she will post the EOSC meeting agenda as requested by the EOSC. Ms. Roberts-Lawler mentioned that the EOSC consider voluntarily posting the agenda provided this does not result in a requirement to do so. Other members agreed that posting an agenda should not be required but is important to do when possible for transparency. Ms. Petzinger stated that she creates a draft agenda for each EOSC meeting and can share it with the Clerk to post.

A motion to post the draft EOSC agenda on the website prior to meeting, when possible, was made by Mr. Collett, seconded by Ms. Ryan, and unanimously approved.

Trail Creation & Maintenance Plan

EOSC members discussed the draft Trail Creation and Maintenance Plan timeline and maps and suggested edits to be made prior to the March EOSC meeting.

March deer management presentation advertising

Ms. Vuocolo confirmed that Jason Giroud from Readington Township will give a presentation about deer management on municipal lands at the March EOSC meeting. EOSC members discussed possible audiences to invite, the content of the presentation, and ways to advertise.

Forest Stewardship Plan Implementation

Ms. Petzinger mentioned that the Anthony Preserve Forest Stewardship Plan has been approved by the NJ Forest Service, therefore the Township can begin implementing the plan over the next ten years. The first step will be to seek permission from NJDEP and copy NJ Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) to implement the plan in the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program (EIFP) deed restricted areas, and when approved seek funding from grants to pay for the implementation. EOSC members discussed options and decided to send a request for permission to implement the entire forest stewardship plan.

A motion to request permission from NJDEP to implement the Anthony Forest Stewardship in its entirety in EIFP deed-restricted areas, with a copy to NJWSA, was made by Ms. Vuocolo, seconded by Ms. Roberts-Lawler, and unanimously approved.

Work Plan & Subcommittees

EOSC members reviewed the various EOSC subcommittees and assignments and discussed changes.

CORRESPONDENCES

EOSC members were invited to participate in a local work group with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Ms. Vuocolo will be attending for her work and will report back regarding what was discussed.

The EOSC received correspondence from PSEG about a permit application to maintain vegetation in powerlines and pipelines. Ms. Roberts-Lawler will investigate and determine if the EOSC should discuss providing comments.

LIAISON UPDATES

- MWA – Nancy Roberts-Lawler – no report.
- RHA – Constance Grill – no updates, but will get in touch with RHA about well testing dates.
- MRMC – Nancy Roberts-Lawler – no report.
- Highlands Council – Rich Webb – nothing to report.
- Planning Board – Linda Ryan – tomorrow’s Planning Board meeting cancelled and the last meeting was a re-org so there is nothing to report.

OTHER TOPICS/HIGHLIGHTS

Farmland assessment requirements may have changed since the recent passing of the NJPACT REAL rules.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm.