**HACKENSACK RIVER GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes Monday, February 24, 2025

8:00 PM

Zoom Meet

Attending: Jim Wurm, Marion McClary, Joshua Rochlin, Steven Becker, Shania Brander, Danielle Gee, Marie Warnke

Excused: Christina Pami, Peter Goldman

Guest: DeeAnn Ipp, Bill Orr

**Chair’s report**

Greenbelt Committee- established in 1990’s when NJ DOT proposed widening of Route 4 to 3 lanes. Project was dropped in 2017, and the Committee went dormant. Marie, who was the last chair of the committee, was contacted last week by NJ DOT. The project has been reopened to make improvements between Belle Avenue and Teaneck Road and she was asked to attend hearings representing the citizens group. Marie spoke with Doug and it was suggested that the HRGAB be asked to take on Greenbelt as a committee to allow participation in NJ DOT hearings. If the project will be for a long termed period, the Council would then be asked to reestablish the committee independent of HRGAB. The original committee consisted of representatives of Shade Tree Advisory Board, EC, Planning Board, PPRB, BOE and St. Anastasia. It was unanimously agreed to form the Greenbelt Committee under HRGAB.

Trails reports- tree is still blocking connecting trail between Lenape Turtle Pond and Camperdown. Marie is meeting with manager and will ask for help from DPW. Josh also mentioned that a tree along fence in southern entrance of Andreas blocks the trail and DPW will be asked to remove that as well.

**Old Business**

**1.** MPAP (Municipal Public Access Plan) – Tabled

HRGAB – Jim Wurm

EC – Peter Goldman

PPRAB – Christina Parmi

Planning Board - Chris Brown

2. Mary Topolsky Garden & Trail – Don Torino will be visiting site this week to help plan out native garden for spring planting.

3. Trail behind DPW – Council commitment for trail. Danielle reported that there is no update on the site, but will propose to Council that a resolution be presented to commit to opening a trail once the site is either improved as DPW site or given to another use.

4. FDU easement – Marie will be meeting with the manager who will give an update from township attorney.

5. NPS Battlefield grant- applied and waiting for June for response

6. Burial Ground –It is a goal of this Board to establish a continuous trail along the river and since this area is township land it should be included as the Greenway along the shoreline. The shoreline was created by landfill so there would be no interference with the burial area. The Board is not intending to have the burial area as part of the Greenway. To respect the sacred ground, we would recommend to Council to have a ground probing radar study done to locate the actual location of the graves. Jim has the survey and deed documents for the site to pursue possibility of a proposal to present to Council from a company that could do such a study. Jim requested that if the actual survey is available that we get him a copy rather that a screen shot.

7. Ceremony for renaming of Indian Pond- Josh has made an audio of the Greenway highlighting the pond which he shared with Board. This might be used with renaming ceremony.

8. Hackensack River Nation was rescheduled to April 22 at FDU. There will be workshops throughout the day including an update on the superfund, storm water management and trails along the river. Capt. Bill Sheehan will be one of the speakers. Marie will send more information if any members wish to attend.

9. ADA trail at Jordan Wouk River Walk- Tyler Tierney, Outreach Coordinator from the Riverkeeper, will walk the trail with Marie to determent the scope of the project that he and volunteers can do to improve the trail. He will set up a weekend in March and get volunteers to both cleanup area and improve trails.

**New Business**

It was suggested that we set up an annual guided walk along the whole trail open to the community. Marie will work on a date for this.

Information was asked about the Carriage House in Andreas. It was part of the original farm and was first a barn and then a car garage. It is two layers with a pot belly stove on the lower level that had been used as a warming house when ice skating was possible on the pond. It is now a storage area for DPW, but structurally it is in terrible shape and will in time need to be taken down.

**Good and Welfare**

Next meetings – March 24, 2025 8:00 PM

Unless noted, all meetings are on the fourth Monday at 8:00 P.M on Zoom

Standing Documents 1- Membership contact information, 2- Invasives,

3- Recommended Natives, 4- Meeting Dates