

# MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 22, 2020  
Manchester Township Municipal Building  
1 Colonial Drive, Manchester Township, NJ

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Middaugh called the Regular Meeting of the Manchester Township Environmental Commission to order with the following statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act. Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was advertised in the Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger.”

Time: 5:00 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

### ROLL CALL:

Peggy Middaugh	Present
William Cook	Present
William Foor	Present
Rory Wells	Present
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
David Kiernan	Absent
Genevieve Stavalo	Absent

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

#### August 25, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Wells made a motion to approve the August 25, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Foor.  
**Roll call vote:** Mr. Cook, Mr. Foor, Mr. Wells, Ms. Middaugh, Ms. Demarest-Paraan; yes. Motion carried.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### Pinelands Notice – Forest Fire Fuel Break

Ms. Middaugh: This is taking place in the Roosevelt City section of town. The purpose is to protect the development. Some of the people are concerned about an increase in illegal ATV activity.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I sent you all a link to view the details of the plan. After reading them, it doesn't appear that they will be creating any new roads or access to trails. They will be treading lightly – no large trees are being taken down. I don't see additional off-roading as a major concern.

Ms. Middaugh: Illegal ATV activity is a concern for Pinelands in general. Perhaps we could help them out by getting it out there how to report this activity.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I know of three phone numbers. Over the past few months I noticed there are signs posted on the township-owned properties with phone numbers to report activity.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Whiting Landfill Solar Project**

**Soil Importation Ordinance**

Ms. Middaugh: I sent out sample ordinances that other towns are passing regarding clean fill. Does anybody know if the township already has an ordinance like this?

Mr. Foor: Mr. Wells and I brought this up at the Planning Board meeting last week. The township engineer said they are aware that Jackson passed an ordinance and are looking into doing something similar in Manchester. They want to expand it to include soil that is brought in for backyard gardening. They are aware and looking at it.

Ms. Middaugh: We should let the Planning Board know we are glad they are doing this and the Commission is in support.

**Pollinator Garden Plans**

Ms. Middaugh: Tom Brys, seemed on board with a pollinator garden on site, but it's up to us to find out who can work with us on this.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: There are different considerations since it will be over a capped area. Maybe not a garden per se, but mass plantings around the perimeter of the solar equipment, more like a meadow.

Ms. Middaugh: If we have comments about this, who would we give them to?

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I think it should be a component of the project.

Mr. Foor: It is tied together with the redevelopment plan. The site plan will have a landscaping Plan. Perhaps we can get something to the BA, maybe suggest that it be included in the redevelopment plan.

**MEMBER REPORTS:**

Mr. Foor: I attended the Council Meeting and was encouraged that the town is planning to purchase property to be preserved as open space.

Mr. Cook: As you can probably see from your emails, the plastics bill is awaiting posting. Hopefully something will be happening very soon.

Mr. Wells: I mentioned to the Planning Board that the Commission has had several presentations at their meetings. There was one member in particular that seemed very interested in them. I have really been enjoying the presentations at our meetings. I applaud the Commission. I think we're doing some things right, and this is one of them.

Ms. Demarest Paraan: I attended the ANJEC Stormwater Management Presentation. Every town in New Jersey has to rewrite their ordinance on stormwater management by March 3, 2021. Also, National Drive Electric Week is October 24 – November 26. A lot of them are online this year. They have excellent presentations. More information can be found online at [www.driveelectricweek.com](http://www.driveelectricweek.com).

Ms. Middaugh: The ANJEC Environmental Congress is coming up. It will all be virtual this year. Also, the Toms River Watershed Restoration and Protection Project is starting. The kick-off meeting is on September 29, 2020 and they are encouraging public participation. Manchester is a major part of this watershed.

We should be receiving a draft of Manchester's Natural Resource Inventory in October. I will follow-up with the consultant.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Mr. Craig Hubbard, resident: Thank you for being receptive of the soil importation ordinance. In Jackson there was a proposed development where they would raise the elevation 10 feet. 100 truckloads of dirt would be trucked in everyday for two years without any regulation on the soil. This is what led to Jackson passing this ordinance. The development application has since been withdrawn. The Commission thanked Mr. Hubbard for bringing this to their attention.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Wells and seconded by Mr. Cook, the meeting was adjourned. All in favor, motion carried.

Time: 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee  
Commission Secretary