

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 24, 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 Foor	Present
Rory Wells	Absent
Mary Demarest-Paraan	Present
David Kiernan	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
William Cook	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 27, 2020 Regular Meeting

Ms. Demarest-Paraan made a motion to approve the October 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Foor.

Roll call vote: Mr. Foor, Mr. Cook, Mr. Kiernan, Ms. Middaugh, Ms. Demarest-Paraan; yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natural Resource Inventory Meeting w/ HGA

The Commissioners met with the consultant working on the Township’s updated Natural Resource Inventory, Elena Gable of Heyer, Gruel and Associates.

Mr. Cook: Some of the maps in the report had a lot more detail. Would it be possible to add that same detail to all of the maps? This would be great for the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Ms. Gable: I didn’t add detail to all of the maps initially because it doesn’t give as clean of a look. I can certainly add it to the other maps.

Mr. Foor: This report is a significant improvement over our previous NRI. I want to clarify my comment from last month about the Naval Engineering base. I think the document should be updated to include what is physically still there. There are more sites than identified in the document.

Ms. Gable: All of the data was pulled from the NJDEP. As far as the historic properties, some were identified but most had been demolished. I only include the one that was listed – Hanger No. 1.

Ms. Middaugh: Thank you for adding in the vernal pools. I think this would be a great for a school project – there are only two certified vernal pools in town. Thanks for adding in the deer population information as well. I

read an article that deer are killing our forests by eating all of the understory. I am thinking this can help with local forest protection.

Karen Argenti, resident: Could you link the maps from the NRI to the sources from the NJDEP website?

Ms. Gable: I will look into adding live links to the map.

Ms. Gable: For the public forum next month, I will prepare a PowerPoint and send it to the Commissioners about two weeks before the meeting for review.

Medical Office – 420 Lacey Road

Mr. Cook: They are handling drainage on this property according to the new stormwater management rules. There will be two recharge ponds.

Ms. Middaugh: I drove up there – it is the lot next to Wendy's. The lot is flooded, a lot of wetlands and plants. The applicant is asking for a variance to not have as many shade trees. They said there isn't vegetation, but there is. The way it is being described is different from the way it actually is.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: The site has been neglected, it definitely needs attention. The property used to be a junkyard.

Mr. Foor: I can bring this up to the Planning Board

Ms. Middaugh: Thank you, Bill. There is a little driveway between Wendy's and the road into the shopping mall with planted street trees. It would be a shame to take them down.

Mr. Foor: I will take a look when I have a copy of the full sized drawings.

Irene Tysh, resident: That site is always flooded. I often thought the lot could never be developed because of this.

Mr. Foor: I'm sure the Planning Board engineer will take a really good look at it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Master Plan Review

Ms. Middaugh: Anybody know the timeline?

Mr. Foor: Councilman Hudak said at the Council meeting, the committee is working on it. They are doing a major scrub of sections of Code 245. He did not give a timeline yet.

Ms. Middaugh: I just wonder how much time we have to get comments to them.

Mr. Foor: I don't think they have a revised draft yet, so I think we have some time. If we have comments, I think the right point of contact would be Councilman Hudak.

Ms. Middaugh: Who is on the Master Plan Committee?

Mr. Foor: I know that the president of the Planning Board and Councilman Hudak.

Ms. Middaugh: I'm particularly interested in the section about how the Planning Board interacts with the Environmental Commission.

Ms. Middaugh asked Secretary Frazee to post a copy of the Master Plan on the township website.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: On the Township Clerk's page, there is a direct link to Section 245.

The Green Amendment

Ms. Middaugh: I sent around a sample ordinance from Maya van Rossum. Any comments?

Mr. Cook and Mr. Foor stated they are not in favor of the Green Amendment.

Mr. Foor: Mr. Wells is planning to talk to the Assemblymen to find out their take on the amendment but hasn't had the opportunity to do that yet.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: I am in favor of the amendment.

Ms. Middaugh: I am in favor. What's being done now isn't working. Pollution continues to get worse. There are more superfund sites in NJ than anywhere.

Irene Tysh, resident: I think we need strict protection for our health. It should be written down as law and followed.

Ms. Argenti: It doesn't seem like a productive use of the Commission's time. There is a lot to do before we get to that point.

MEMBER REPORT:

Mr. Cook: I had dinner with a friend who lives in The Venue off of Lacey Road. They are forming a group due to the stormwater pond flooding. It is not functioning properly.

Secretary Frazee advised that she received an email about this issue and forwarded to the necessary township personnel.

Ms. Demarest Paraan: There is a new website, www.floodfactor.com, that shows the natural flooding of areas.

Ms. Middaugh: Perhaps we can put that information in our NRI.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: You probably all heard that the state plastics ban was approved, very exciting. Electric vehicle transition is steaming along.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Karen Argenti, resident: Save Barnegat Bay is working with Barnegat Bay Partnership on the new MS4 which will include a revamping of the stormwater management plan. It will include a new ordinance from the town. They changed some of the equations but NJDEP has put together a lot of documents that help people to understand and their document meets federal rules. The town has the ability to make the rules more stringent, as needed.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: The town is working on an updated ordinance.

Mr. Foor: The Township engineer, Maser Consulting, is working on this.

Irene Tysh, resident: Thank you for doing what you do and for your time.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 5:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary