

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Manchester Township Municipal Building
1 Colonial Drive, Manchester Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Wells 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:

Rory Wells	Present
William Cook	Present
William Foor	Present
Peggy Middaugh	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Present
Gabrielle Fox	Present
Kristy Henry	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Stavallo.

Roll call vote: Mr. Cook, Mr. Foor, Ms. Middaugh, Ms. Stavallo, Mr. Wells; yes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION:

Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study

Dr. Chris Obropta, Extension Specialist in Water Resources for Rutgers University, joined the Environmental Commission to present a feasibility study performed by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. Intended to be used as a guide for the community, the study highlights site specific green infrastructure opportunities in Manchester Township. By implementing these green practices, such as installing beautiful rain gardens and converting paved parking spaces to porous asphalt, Manchester Township can begin to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff and decrease the pressure on local infrastructure and waterways. For more information, please visit www.water.rutgers.edu.

Mr. Wells: My recommendation would be to pick one or two of these projects to pursue if we can get volunteers. There is maintenance involved. I will reach out to the Public Works Director.

Mr. Cook: I think the rain garden at the Library is a definite go since they have plans that are further along.

Ms. Middaugh: I agree; we need volunteers. Who will maintain the rain gardens? Let's think strategically. It would be a great Eagle Scout project.

Ms. Fox: The Ocean County Soils Conservation District provides grants and resources. I will look into it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Single Family Development – Block 63.05, Lot 9 & 25

No comments

2065 Highway 37 – Block 15.01, Lot 44

Mr. Wells: We have time on this one. It is not on the Planning Board's agenda yet.

Mr. Cook: I have a difficult time reading the plans on the computer, the font is so small.

Secretary Frazee: I have a hard copy at town hall which can be borrowed and passed around amongst the commissioners.

Ms. Middaugh: On large projects like this, I think we should recommend Electric Vehicle charging stations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Electric Vehicle / Charging Station Pilot Program

Mr. Wells: I'd like to present a proposal to the Township Council about installing Electric Vehicle charging stations and introducing Electric Vehicles into the fleet. I spoke to the Council about this at their last meeting. I'm looking into funding sources from private, state and federal governments.

Mr. Cook: I spoke to the Township Clerk of Beach Haven. They received hefty funding through "Pays to Plug" grants. Beach Haven charges \$3/hour to use their charging stations and max charging time is four hours. They have an enabling ordinance that would have to go through the Council. They are very willing to help us. I think the next step would be to find a grant writer.

Mary Demarest-Paraan, Public: Great job moving this forward. The town could make a little bit of money on them. Just keep in mind that Manchester doesn't have the same kind of down town areas like Beach Haven.

Mr. Wells: I will keep everybody updated on the status of this through email.

Whiting Storage Facility, 2121 Lake Rd. – Block 102, Lot 2

Mr. Wells: This application was approved at the last Planning Board meeting. The owner was very receptive to the recommendations that were made.

Ms. Middaugh: I am disappointed there will not be a setback. They prefer bushes and short plantings. We should follow up to make sure they follow through with the plantings/rain gardens on their plans.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Household Hazardous Waste Program 2021

The Household Hazardous Waste Program will be held at 9am-3pm on 3/21/21 (Lakewood), 4/24/21 (Stafford), and 5/22/21 (Toms River).

Please visit co.ocean.nj.us/recycle or call 732-506-5047 for more information and to register. Registration is required.

MEMBER REPORT:

Potential Cleanup Sites – Crossley Preserve and Brooksbrae

Ms. Fox said she hopes to visit the potential cleanup sites in the near future.

Warehouse Use Variance Approval

Ms. Cook: The Zoning Board of Adjustment approved the use variance for the warehouse on Route 37. No site plans yet. Hopefully Erin can send over digital drawings.

Deer Management

Ms. Middaugh: Last night I was on a webinar about deer management. The average number of deer per acre in New Jersey is 300 and the recommended is 10. They have a program at Dukes Farm. Is this something the commission would want to take on? It depends on how much of a problem it is in Manchester.

Mr. Wells: If that number is accurate, that's a problem. We could ask the Police Department how many police reports they get regarding deer, and if it's not satisfactory, maybe we should take a position on it.

Ms. Middaugh: Accidents are one of the problems, but also ticks, diseases, the imbalance from eating the understory of the forest, causing loss of certain species. We don't have to decide right now.

Mr. Foor: A few years back we took a position on the geese overpopulation.

Offshore Wind Power

Mr. Wells: The Murphy Administration is pushing for the windmill project off our coast. At some point, I'd like to issue a statement either for or against it. When you have time, please educate yourselves on this project and let's weigh the pros and cons. Perhaps we could have a presentation on it. I am against the proposal based on everything I've read, but I am open minded. I recommend watching the environmental documentary "Planet of the Humans", currently on Amazon Prime.

Ms. Middaugh asked Mr. Wells if he could forward her the information he has on this topic.

Welcome New Member – Kristy Henry

The Environmental Commission welcomed new Alternate #2 member, Ms. Henry, to the board. Ms. Henry helped create the Summit Park Neighborhood Watch and looks forward to being part of the commission and helping the community.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Robert Craig Hubbard, Public, thanked the commissioners for the educational presentation at the start of the meeting. Mr. Hubbard attended the Planning Board meeting where the Whiting Storage Facility application was approved and he said the Planning Board did a great job of questioning the applicant. The applicant was familiar with the new stormwater rules and was agreeable. Mr. Hubbard expressed his disappointment in the storage use on Route 37 that was approved at the Zoning Board meeting; the project engineer was not familiar with the new green infrastructure laws and they don't even know what the storage facility is going to be used for. The approval was not unanimous.

Mr. Cook: The Use was approved but a Site Plan has not come before the Zoning Board yet. This is a bifurcated process where the use was approved first and then they will come back with a site plan which will be approved or denied. I personally wasn't happy with some of the layout and traffic pattern. We will see what happens when the site plan comes back.

Joseph Hankins, Public, The National Fire Protection Association has a suggested list of vegetation – plantings, trees and shrubs, that don't burn as fast. If you have suggestive power, that would be a good thing to push.

Mr. Wells: I will definitely check out the National Fire Protection website and pass on to the Commissioners. Thanks for attending.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary