

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 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:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 26, 2021 Organization Meeting

Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the January 26, 2021 Organization Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Middaugh.

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

January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Middaugh.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Potential Cleanup Locations

Ms. Fox: The Pinelands Preservation Alliance suggested I reach out to the watershed ambassador who gave me two potential cleanup sites to consider – the Brooksbrae Brick Factory off of Route 70, a local hangout spot covered in graffiti, and Crossley Preserve.

Ms. Middaugh: I’d love to get involved with Crossley. It is a few thousand acres and there are many entrance trails. It’s used a lot by hunters.

Mr. Wells: Since the area is so big, it could be a year-long process. The Police Department has drones.

Mr. Cook: Taking on Crossley Preserve as our first project seems overwhelming. Perhaps we should pick a location that is more contained to start.

Mr. Wells: If we could get 60 people out there.

Ms. Stavallo: The Bricksbrae Brick Factory is one of those “weird NJ spots” that tourists visit.

Mr. Wells: Maybe we could put a really nice mural there and people will be less tempted to graffiti over it. I would like to set up a site visit.

Ms. Middaugh: Brooskbrae is in a State park so we would have to coordinate with the State.

Ms. Stavalo: If we talk to DPW, they may be able to set up a dumpster at the corner.

Mary Demarest-Paraan, public: I've been to Brooskbrae many times. My husband has a fat bike and trailer and we would love to help. It gets quite busy back there and I think people would just tag over a new mural.

Mr. Wells: I will send an email out to commissioners, two dates between now and the next meeting. I can reach out to the high school and college environmental clubs about volunteers.

Ms. Fox: I will reach out to the National Honor Society.

Electric Vehicle Pilot Program

Mr. Wells: This has been a goal of the commission for a couple of years. Ms. Middaugh and former Environmental Commission member, Mary Demarest-Paraan, met with the mayor on this awhile back. The budget for this year has already been approved, but I would like to get charging stations at the township. Funding will have to come from the township or grants. I'm going to continue speaking with the township department heads to find out what the needs are. The town has seven EMS rigs and one supervisor's vehicle. The mayor seems to be on board. I think we should send a letter to the Township Council of our interest for the year 2022.

Mr. Cook: We should research what other towns are doing. LBI has a charging station. I can reach out to them.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan, public: Charging stations are about \$1,800 not including wiring. The township has their own electrician.

Mr. Wells asked Ms. Demarest-Paraan if she could email him two or three reputable EV charging companies.

Mr. Wells: maybe we can ask for two electric vehicles, 6 charging stations – 2 for the town, 4 for public use.

Ms. Middaugh: We will also need to purchase signage.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan, public: Some stations charge a small fee but there isn't a lot of money in it. There is usually a penalty for using it too long.

Mr. Cook: Are connectors all common?

Ms. Demarest-Paraan: Connector cables come with the car. Level 2 Stations use 40-50 amps and take 3.5-5 hours to fully charge an electric vehicle.

Mr. Cook: It would be a lot of pull on the town.

Ms. Demarest-Paraan, public: It would be a good idea to ask the electrician where the best location is. If the infrastructure is there, maybe by the township maintenance building.

Mr. Cook: It will cost over \$1,800 per charging station. They would need breakers, disconnect switches, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

2021 Goals & Objectives

Ms. Middaugh: Chris Obropta from Rutgers chose Manchester as a site to conduct a green infrastructure feasibility study. He will be coming to our next meeting to give a presentation on the study. We need to make a flyer and get the word out.

Ms. Middaugh asked Mr. Cook how the Environmental Commission can assist the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Mr. Cook: In some instances, larger developments require a use variance and the Zoning Board will do the site plan review. As a member of the Zoning Board, I don't receive copies of the applications until a few days before the meeting – which is two days after our monthly meetings.

The 2021 Goals & Objectives of the Environmental Commission were approved by the commissioners and will be posted on our website.

2121 Lake Rd. - Block 102, Lot 2

Secretary will send an interoffice memo to the Planning Board with the comment about adding a setback with existing tree screening.

MEMBER REPORT:

Ms. Middaugh: Save Barnegat Bay is hiring for two different positions – check out www.savebarnegatbay.org and scroll to the bottom for more information.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary