

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 23, 2021
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: 6:00 PM

This was followed with the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

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| Peggy Middaugh | Present |
| Gabrielle Fox | Present |
| William Foor | Present |
| Genevieve Stavalo | Present |
| Kristy Henry | Absent |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 26, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mr. Foor made a motion to approve the October 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Fox.

Roll call vote: Mr. Foor, Ms. Fox, Ms. Middaugh; yes. Ms. Stavalo abstained. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

JBMDL Air Pollution Control Operating Permit

Mr. Foor: I suspect this is notice of renewal.

Ms. Middaugh: It's an amendment – the capacity is doubling.

Ms. Fox: Do DEP and EPA regulations apply on federal land?

Mr. Foor: When I worked on the base, we always complied with local regulations. I once couldn't get approval on a project because they wouldn't allow a single drop of heated distilled water to disturb the ground. We weren't able to appeal the decision and the project was cancelled.

Ms. Fox: The EPA has an environmental justice law for overburdened areas. 29.3% in Manchester.

Ms. Middaugh: Most of the overburdened areas are in the Crestwoods.

Ms. Fox: The base is huge. It doesn't say how far it will be from residential areas. The additional sulfur dioxide is concerning. Carbon dioxide levels are doubling.

Ms. Middaugh: I think we should send comments to the NJDEP - thank you for bring to our attention, confirm compliance with the Environmental Justice Law. Presumably the NJDEP already knows.

Ms. Fox: I need to dig a little deeper into the law. These changes could also affect the watershed and wildlife. Sulfur dioxide turns into sulfuric acid. The location is Rt. 547, Building 5.

Mr. Foor: That's where the power plant is located on the eastern part of the base in Manchester. Diesel fired most likely.

Ms. Fox: Looks to be less than a mile from developments.

Ms. Middaugh: All of Lakehurst is an overburdened community.

Mr. Foor: Certain things, such as for the Navy, are only made at this base. In the past they have always accounted for the carbon footprint. I know individuals who run the department are very sensitive to the environment. The numbers are increasing which may be a concern, but I just don't know the relative threshold.

Ms. Middaugh: We just want them to be aware, to put in on their radar.

Mr. Foor: Ultimately, the experts will make the determination.

OLD BUSINESS:

2065 Highway 37 Development

Mr. Foor: I spoke to the Planning Board engineer, Mr. Mullin, regarding the concerns we received from Pinelands Preservation Alliance about this application at the last meeting. He was able to confirm that the CAFRA application was approved and the information the applicant submitted was accurate. The reference to the CAFRA 20001 is relative to the commercial pad which has only been given preliminary approval and will again come before us and the Planning Board for final approval in the future.

2121 Lake Road – Storage Facility

Ms. Fox: I drove past the lot and they clear cut the trees.

Ms. Middaugh: I was unhappy about that as well. When we sent comments to the Planning Board, we suggested they leave a barrier of trees, but the applicant wasn't receptive; they want their business to be seen from the street.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Stormwater Management Training

Mr. Foor: The Planning Board members were asked to take part in an online stormwater management training. The training was based on the 2004 laws, but there was some discussion on rain gardens and other green infrastructure.

Sustainable NJ

Ms. Middaugh: Ms. Fox and I met to discuss the Green Team and obtaining additional Sustainable NJ points. Ms. Fox did a write up for the cleanup we organized at the Brooksbrae Brick Factory. We are also working on coordinating a nature walk and doing a write up for the NRI the township completed last year. Maybe we can plan another Earth Day event. Ms. Stavallo and the former Chair Mr. Wells were on the subcommittee.

Ms. Stavallo: Last year our Earth Day event was cancelled due to Covid. Mr. Wells was heavily involved. I can reach out to him. We would also need to get in touch with Al Yodakis, Director of DPW.

Ms. Fox: I'm certainly willing to help if you can give me direction.

Master Plan Update

Ms. Middaugh: The township is in the process of updating the town's Master Plan. I would like to get involved/make suggestions.

Mr. Foor: I replaced Michele Zolezi on the Master Plan Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for January. I can certainly pass on any comments from the Environmental Commission and can brief you on the next meeting.

Ms. Fox: There has been major development in Whiting over the last 15 years.

Ms. Middaugh: The developments could be "softer". Perhaps new rules could be put in place to leave more trees, larger setbacks, etc. to preserve the ambience and aesthetics of the community.

Ms. Middaugh asked Mr. Foor if he could mention this at the next Master Plan Committee Meeting.

Manchester Township High School Science Club

Ms. Fox: I met with the HS Science Club, run by Science Teacher Mrs. White, to talk to them about the role of the Commission within the township. They would be happy to get involved and assist with future projects.

PUBLIC FORUM:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 7:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary