

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 22, 2022
Manchester Township Municipal Building
1 Colonial Drive, Manchester Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Fox 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:

Gabrielle Fox	Present
Peggy Middaugh	Present
William Foor	Present
Karen Argenti	Present
Dina Newbert	Present
Genevieve Stavallo	Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 25, 2022 Regular and Organization Meetings

Ms. Argenti made a motion to approve the January 25, 2022 Regular and Organization Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Foor.

Roll call vote: Mr. Foor, Ms. Fox, Ms. Newbert; yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Goals & Objectives 2022

Goal #1

Update goal to include event name, "Green Day".

Goals #2 & #3 – No changes

Goal #4 – No changes

Ms. Fox is waiting to hear back from the Watershed Ambassador. Ms. Middaugh suggested Pinelands Preservation Alliance as a speaker. They have an excellent presentation on Reptiles and Amphibians.

Goal #5

Update goal to include language about the upcoming ANJEC grant.

Goal #6 – No changes

Ms. Middaugh: ANJEC might be a good speaker on the plastics ban. People are going to be upset come May 4th and there are no more plastic bags. Maybe we can promote it by giving out reusable bags, and presenting the good message; why this is an important step.

Mr. Foor: They have a display set up by the cash registers at Lowes with reusable bags for sale. It's getting close.

Ms. Middaugh: Maybe we can help the stores prepare; I would volunteer to go to Stop and Shop and speak to the manager about helping promote the ban.

Ms. Newbert: The Somers Point Wawa has a sign out that they do not give out bags.

Ms. Fox: Maybe Wawa would donate some bags.

Mr. Foor: Perhaps we can put a flyer on our website or Facebook page about the changes coming.

Ms. Newbert: When I asked a manager at ShopRite what they are going to do, they said they have no idea. Maybe we could send a copy of the flyer to the senior communities and they can publish in their monthly newsletters. They probably need a few weeks lead time.

Ms. Argenti: I can share with the Manchester Coordinating Council.

Ms. Newbert: We could get the High School Science Club involved.

Ms. Fox: I have a contact for the Science Club.

Goal #7 – No changes

Mr. Foor: The Master Plan Committee still has not met yet this year.

Goal #8

- Combine with Goal #8 and #10

- Update goal to include dates of scheduled events:

Rain Barrel Workshop – March 28, 2022

Rain Garden Workshop – May 18, 2022

Goal #9 – No changes

Paramount Commons at Whiting Block 109, Lot 1.02

Ms. Fox: Do they have to follow the new stormwater guidelines since the pad is already there.

Mr. Foor: Yes, they will. In the engineer's letter, Mr. Mullin requests the commission comment on whether or not we think a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary.

The commissioners are in agreement that the current EIS is adequate.

Mr. Foor: The lighting plan seems positive. Over the past few years, I feel that the commission's comments are being heard.

Ms. Argenti: I asked Lauren to get some of the documents referenced in the engineer's letter – the Hydrology and Stormwater Reports. I checked the plants and trees listed – they are all native.

Ms. Middaugh: They are applying for a variance for signage. In our comments to them, we should include a note about not putting mulch volcanos around the trees.

After review of the plans, the commissioners were able to determine the mulch concern is addressed in the plans. Secretary to send interoffice memorandum to the Planning Board that the current EIS is sufficient and they are satisfied with the plans, specifically the stormwater plan, incorporation of native plants, and proper tree planting instructions.

2022 ANJEC Grants for Open Space Stewardship Projects

Ms. Argenti: The application must be endorsed by the Business Administrator. There is preserved open space in the villages – we could do a green infrastructure project. Maybe a rain garden is a prominent area. We would need community approval and they would be responsible for maintenance.

Mr. Michael Hogan, 679 Timberline Lane: I spoke to our Board and their concern is that it needs to be accessible to the public. A lot of communities wouldn't be interested because of this. What about trail areas – some of them are in desperate need of landscaping.

The commissioners also discussed other potential projects: trailblazing, creating small parking area for trail entrance(s), stormwater issue at Harry Wright Lake, signage to deter littering.

MTEC Handbook

Ms. Fox: Our handbook is a work in progress. I think it would be helpful to include a list of commonly used acronyms.

Ms. Middaugh: An organization chart of all employees at town hall would be helpful. We can use the ANJEC Handbook as a resource, it has a lot of useful information in it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audubon Great Backyard Bird Count – February 18-21, 2022

Ms. Fox participated in the bird count and submitted data.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Ms. Middaugh attended the Pinelands Amphibians & Reptiles Webinar hosted by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. The webinar focused on current threats, opportunities and conservation projects underway.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Michael Hogan, 679 Timberline Lane, suggested the commission show the documents they are reviewing on the TV. Mr. Hogan also suggested the town have a detailed tree count with size, type, etc. When an application comes up, the town knows exactly what they have. Mr. Hogan suggested it can be done in pieces and to possibly get students involved.

Ms. Argenti: When they take down trees, there is a mitigation plan.

Ms. Newbert: It would be a good resource for Firewise.

Mr. Foor: This would be a big project and take a lot of time. Perhaps we can look into it next year.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Frazee
Commission Secretary