

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

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

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Fox asked for a volunteer secretary to start the meeting, and Ms. Argenti offered.

Chairperson Fox called the SPECIAL 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.

**Chair Fox did the ROLL CALL:**

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

**JBMDL INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN** in response of the March 10<sup>th</sup> letter requesting review of potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the updated 2020 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) (Proposed Action):

Chair Fox began the discussion, mentioned the March 10<sup>th</sup> letter and circulated notes and emails. Raised concern about the thinning of the forests, the reason they are asking to do this work instead of other alternatives. Discussed the Environmental Assessment.

Ms. Middaugh expressed concern over the forestry part; looking at the next steps; we do not have to be the experts but we can bring in the experts. State report on the issue of forest management. Senator Smith has a NJ Task Force on Forest Management.

Ms. Argenti read a draft letter, and offered to incorporate the other comments, including an invite for a representative to come to one of our regular meetings as some point. (Attach signed letter)

Chair Fox raised concern of the PFOAs and asked about that data. In general, did not see anything about the impact, the number of trees, their replacement. Concerned with the notion of monoculture grasses which raises questions of other species, and why not use native grasses.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

*Rhyan Grech, Policy Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA):* Ms. Grech introduced herself and the PPA. Then, she commented on our discussion. PPA will submit comments. This is a summary of what she discussed:

Described the role of the Pinelands Commission and that they recently adopted new stormwater regulations that are more stringent than the NJ DEP. The base, in PPA's opinion should be subject to the Pinelands regulations and can adopt a more stringent protection of the wetlands and forest than the DEP. They did discuss the impact on climate change, but not on the role of forest and wetland impacts on protecting and increasing carbon sequestration. Agrees on the contact with the Forestry Task Force as there is a concern with what should be prioritized with forest management: preservation of natural forests (proforestation) vs creating more edge habitat (birds and others) for "biodiversity" (but the thinning leads to timber sales). Hard to tell the reason for the forestry action or what is the goal: is there a target tree density, or target canopy cover, etc.? There is no indication which trees will be removed (ie species. Only diameter at breast height is given as a qualifier). Choosing the largest trees is concerning. As for the grasses, mowing should be directly related to reducing plane strikes of the specific species that use that grass habitat. BASH is not unusual. She referenced the EA table for the list of objections that are new items - ongoing items should be looked at in terms of their potential adverse impacts. Mentioned two superfund sites, and the PFOAs caused by the firefighting foam used in training. Restoration committee on base has monitoring reports. Discussion was on the VOCs of the PFOAs and the impact; monitoring is ambient on and off the base.

**PUBLIC FORUM WAS CLOSED** as no one else wanted to speak

Continued Discussion. Someone mentioned to review the report on water quality at the base. After discussion, the EC agreed to send a letter in response to the notice. Send notes to Ms. Argenti to prepare and circulate by April 14. Letter is due on April 19.

**Roll call vote:** Ms. Fox, Ms. Middaugh, Ms. Newbert, yes. Ms. Stavallo, Ms. Argenti. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Time: 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Argenti  
Temporary Secretary